

Industrial Worker

May 1995

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EDUCATION

ORGANIZATION

EMANCIPATION

International Workers Day

May Day – International Workers' Day in most of the world – has its roots in North America, in the New England winters and Appalachian springs that made May 1 the best time for building trade unions to negotiate their new terms of employment or else strike. It became a world labor holiday for the first time in 1890, when the founding congress of the Second Labor and Socialist International (at the urging of the AFL) set May 1, 1890 as the date for demonstrations demanding the eight-hour day throughout the world.

Twenty-three years before that first International Workers Day, on May 1 1867, there was a massive parade for the eight-hour day in Chicago.

May 1 1886 saw a series of strikes across the US and Canada to win the eight-hour day. Workers won eight hours in many places, and elsewhere cut ten hour days to

Schedule of IWW May Day Activities, Page 3

nine and eleven hour days to ten. Workers struck against employers who refused to reduce hours (or, in many cases, who insisted upon cutting pay).

In Chicago some 75,000 workers struck for the eight-hour day, leading to clashes between strikers and police when police fired on picketing workers. When police attacked a May 4 rally called to protest police brutality, someone threw a bomb. Police used the incident as a pretext to round up scores of labor leaders, four of whom were later hanged after a trial universally acknowledged to be a travesty (a fifth died the night before he was to be hanged, two others served long prison sentences).

The judicial murder of the Haymarket Martyrs stirred international outrage, and has been a prominent part of May Day commemorations. The IWW, by the way, has a direct connection to the martyrs through Lucy Parsons, wife of labor organizer and Haymarket Martyr Albert Parsons and an active participant in the 1905 convention at which the IWW was first organized.

International Workers Day has been celebrated around the world ever since. It marks an opportunity to hearken back to our roots, unite across borders with our fellow workers from every land, and look towards the day when Labor shall finally attain its emancipation.

Joblessness Worst Since Depression

Unemployment has reached its highest level since the great depression, according to a report, "World Employment 1995," issued by the International Labor Organization – a United Nations-affiliate of governments, business and unions (generally the least militant in their respective countries).

Unemployment in the "developed" countries is now about 10 percent, even by official counts, Eastern and Central Europe have seen "a dramatic emergence of mass unemployment," and "there has been a collapse of modern-sector employment in most of sub-Saharan Africa."

Massive unemployment, particularly in poorer countries, is "spawn[ing] a host of problems: growing inequality and social exclusion, the waste of forgone output and unutilized human resources, increasing eco-

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Staley Workers Need Solidarity

Workers in Decatur, Illinois, continue to hold up under the bosses' attacks, but need greater solidarity if they are to win. Although many Bridgestone/Firestone workers have begun crossing picket lines nationally since the tire company began hiring "replacement workers," Decatur picket lines are holding strong. Caterpillar workers, too, are holding the line in Decatur. And locked-out A.E. Staley workers are intensifying their attack against Staley customers in an effort to force the company to end the lock-out and begin serious negotiations.

"The only way we can get to them is to get into their pockets and attack their bottom line," Allied Industrial Workers/UPIU #7837 Secretary Ron Van Scoyock told the *Industrial Worker*. "We need to hit them as hard as we can."

Target Staley Customers

Staley supporters have learned that A.E. Staley's contract renewal talks with Coke and Pepsi are going very poorly (between them, the two buy half of Staley's scab sweeteners), and so are trying to intensify the pressure on the two soft drink makers to stop buying Staley sweeteners until the lock-out ends. Please blanket the companies' toll-free numbers, letting them know what you think of the scabby sweeteners they're using. (Coke: 1-800-438-2653; Pepsi: 1-800-433-2652)

Both companies have received thousands of complaints about their use of Staley ingredients. Support committees have distributed leaflets exposing Pepsi and Coke's scabby practices to union members across the country. In response, Pepsi has been circulating a letter claiming that it "does not purchase product from the A.E. Staley plant in Decatur." However, Pepsi does purchase



large quantities of corn syrup from Staley, and it hardly matters whether it is manufactured by scabs in the Decatur plant or in one of A.E. Staley's non-union operations. Either way, Pepsi is subsidizing Staley's union-busting attack on its workers.

In Chicago Staley supporters have been leafletting local supermarkets, asking shoppers to sign petitions protesting Pepsi's and Coke's support for union-busting, and held an anti-Pepsi rally on February 14th. Nationally, Staley supporters have also been leafletting Pepsi-owned Taco Bell outlets calling attention to Pepsi's support of Staley's war on workers and to a string of hepatitis and food poisoning incidents linked to Taco Bell outlets.

Miller Beer has stopped buying Staley products in response to demands from unionists around the country.

Staley Hit on Safety Violations

Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission Judge James Barkley hit A.E. Staley with a \$760,000 fine for 88 willful and 85 serious violations of safety laws at Staley's Decatur, Illinois, corn-milling plant on January 27th. The inspection leading to the fines began in July 1990 – three years before the company locked out 762 union workers at the plant – in response to several complaints from workers. During the three-month inspection, OSHA investigators found numerous explosion hazards caused by accumulations of combustible dust, locations where asbestos hazards were improperly labeled or asbestos debris had not been cleaned up, platforms without adequate guardrails, unguarded rotating shafts, and unsafe electrical equipment. Judge Barkley found that Staley's senior management

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Wobble Hits Idaho Contractor

More than 500 construction workers "wobbled" a construction project in Boise, Idaho, Jan. 28, forcing the general contractor to reinstate two union electricians' foremen for not driving workers hard enough.

Nearly 1,000 workers are working the job, managed by giant construction contractor Micron. Nearly all are union members. Although some of the workers are locals, most travel from project to project in search of work.

Workers are on the job for only a few months and then move on, so they have no time to wait on the grievance procedure. So "wobbling" the job – as traveling construction workers refer to quickie strikes and other direct action – is a common practice. Some even know the term comes from the IWW.

Anyway, Micron's walking boss made the mistake of tangling with workers who know that their power lies on the job. When he fired the foremen, the 200 electricians on the job immediately walked. They were quickly joined by hundreds of pipefitters and other construction workers, although the foremen and job stewards stayed on the job, bound by the no-strike clause in construction union contracts.

Direct action gets the goods.

Had workers filed a grievance over the firings, they'd be working under slave-driving foremen, watching their working conditions fly out the windows. If the grievance procedure "works," Micron would eventu-

ally be told to reinstate the fired men, but in the meantime the job would have been completed and the crew dispersed.

By Wobbling, they settled the dispute in one day. The foremen are back on the job, working conditions are intact, and Micron has agreed that its walking boss won't harass workers (but will instead work through the contractors handling different aspects of the job).

Micron and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (the "union" representing electricians on the job) both put out letters protesting the Wobble and invoking the no-strike clause in their contract. The "union" notified workers that any member or group that turned to direct action to protect working conditions would be disciplined by the IBEW.

So that's the last wobble Micron will see in a while, right? Maybe. "If they pull that kind of stuff we'll wobble it again," one worker told the *Industrial Worker*. "What they want to do is sit down and talk about it for a god-damned month, and meanwhile the job gets done."

The construction field is ripe for a genuine union. Rather than organizing and fighting the nonunion contractors, the construction unions sign sweetheart deals with the bosses, abandoning the right to strike, and turning a blind eye to union conditions.

In the IBEW, many workers find themselves working under "Presidential Agreements" in which the un-elected IBEW presi-

dent agrees to furnish workers for 80 percent of the union scale, and promises the bosses that there will be no problems from workers. Many workers refuse to take those jobs, others follow the old union principle of bum work for short pay.

Faced with rebellion in the ranks, the IBEW is turning to scab-herding. One IBEW hall recently put out a call for 55 electricians to replace workers fired for wobbling another job. "The AFL – they're company people," one worker said. "All they care about is getting the dues. They're more interested in keeping the company happy... They're cutting their own throats, and ours while they're at it."

Growing numbers of itinerant construction workers are turning to the IWW and to direct action in response. A dozen or so workers on the Boise job carry IWW cards, and many wear Wobbly t-shirts and buttons on the job. As they move from job to job, they carry the IWW message of direct action unionism with them.

The field is ripe for organization. The business unions have been browbeaten for so long that they've bought into the idea that we have to be more "competitive," desperately racing to see who can drive down wages and conditions most quickly.

We Wobblers are from the old school, we still believe in solidarity and direct action – in fighting the bosses and winning. The choice is clear.

X331117

LETTER: Needed – A Labor Party

I would like to cite from personal experience two incidents which illustrate the need for a labor party. (As background information, in 1970 I was hired by the FAA as an air traffic controller. The FAA was hiring because members of the union which preceded PATCO had gone on a "sick out" in an attempt to force the FAA to update antiquated equipment and increase hiring. Issues which were at the heart of the 1981 PATCO strike and, as of today, have not yet been resolved.)

1) In 1980, during his campaign for president, Ronald Reagan assured the PATCO convention in Miami that if elected one of the first things he would do would be to look into the long-standing labor/management problems at the FAA. It was this wink-wink, nudge-nudge attitude that bamboozled PATCO, the Teamsters, and other unions and their members into electing Reagan. After the election he forgot his promise and, on August 3 1981, fired more than 11,000 PATCO members.

2) In 1991, during his campaign for president, Bill Clinton assured the fired controllers that if elected one of the first things he would do would be to lift the ban on hiring PATCO controllers. Clinton was elected, but it wasn't until August 1993 that he lifted the ban. At that time approximately 5,000 people applied to get their jobs back. Today I am sad to report that no former

controllers were hired in 1993 or 1994, and only 25 have been hired in 1995. This is after NATCA, the current union of air traffic controllers, stated that the FAA has approximately 2,000 less controllers working 28% more air traffic than it did in 1981.

These are just two examples of how the labor community has been taken for granted by both political parties. It is time to halt this b.s. and form a political party that fights for striker replacement legislation, rights for a fair minimum wage, fights for safe and healthy working conditions, and fights for the poor, the unemployed and the underemployed – the organized and the unorganized.

Mike Lancaster

Reply: FW Lancaster might wish to review the performance of labor parties around the world in accomplishing these worthy (if quite modest) goals. In view of the results obtained, your editor is convinced that workers would do better to invest their time and energies in building a fighting, revolutionary industrial union (such as the IWW) capable of winning these demands – and more – through our own direct action, rather than wasting any more time on the chimera of a Labor Party whose elected officials will do the job for us.

Kazar Joins Exec Board

Art Kazar (Chicago GMB) has joined the IWW General Executive Board, replacing David Collins (San Francisco GMB) who resigned. Matt Miscreant (New York GMB) is now next alternate. GEB vacancies are filled by the next highest vote getter.

There aren't a lot of perks to the position of GST. In asking myself why I wanted the job I came up with the following:

I get to pick my own hours, as long as the hours I pick are all of them, points out Fellow Worker and major office volunteer David Mashni.

I get a fancy title, which some members would like changed because it strikes them as authoritarian. I've found it can come in handy sometimes in dealing with labor people strapped with hierarchical concepts of structure. When I sign a petition or send an email to support workers in their struggles, people seem to take some note. FW Rush informed me of mention in the Communication Workers of America newsletter that the GST of the "International (groan) Workers of the World had emailed a message of support to some workers having trouble with their boss at a college. Of course the school shut down the email bulletin board a few days later.

The physical office I've inherited has a "private" sign on the door. FW Geoff Kroepel says I should leave it there to remind me of my real rank.

Another perk I expected in becoming was not having a boss looking over my shoulder. Instead of "a" boss, I find I have hundreds of them – every member a boss with only one employee to supervise. Guess who. But most of my bosses are nice folks; so I'm not complaining...much.

Then there's the real perk. I get to talk to a lot of committed and creative people

from many corners of the world. Recently I got to meet one of our newest members, Travis Wilkerson of Minneapolis. He stumbled across an *Industrial Worker* there and was excited to discover the IWW was still around. I was a bit chagrined to find he

from the desk of...

had just moved to Minneapolis after several years in Ann Arbor during which he hadn't known we had a presence here. Gotta work on the visibility problem. Having General Headquarters here is helping to change that.

Travis came back to Ann Arbor for the 33rd annual Ann Arbor 16mm film festival. While here, he came into the office with his "life's companion" Susan Fink. Life's companion, I like the sound of that. Travis signed up in the Union. The two of them told me of a film they had entered in the festival that weekend. Only one of seven submitted is accepted. I went to check it out. It's a 9 minute experimental documentary titled "Hands" based on an eyewitness account of the murder of Chilean folk singer Victor Jara by the junta's goons following the CIA backed coup which toppled the Allende government in 1973. 16mm films don't show up in first run-theatres often; but if you ever get a chance to see this one anywhere, jump at it. It sent chills up my spine.

The IWW lost it's last martyr in the slaughter in the coliseum where Jara was executed. (Annoying editor's note – actually

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Industrial Worker

THE VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY UNIONISM

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Job Branch= 5 or more members in workplace; Del= Delegate; GMB=General Membership Branch; IU=Industrial Union; GOC= Organizing Committee.

IU 120: Forest Workers
IU 450: Print & Publishing Workers
IU 460: Food Processing Workers
IU 610: Health Workers
IU 620: Education Workers
IU 630: Entertainment Workers
IU 660: General Distribution Workers
IU 670: Public Service Workers

AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney Area Group– Del: Ray Elbourne, Corner
Dittons Ln. & Old Illawara Hwy, Sutton Forest
NSW 2577.

CANADA

MANITOBA

Winnipeg GMB– B. Mackay, PO Box 3204,
GNPO, R3C 4E7

ONTARIO

Ottawa GMB– 388 1/2 Kent, K2P 2A9. 613/
231-2922 <indwrk@web.apc.org>
Toronto Group– 11 Andrews Ave M6J 1S2. 416/
941-9945 Meets 1st Thurs 7 pm; phone for
location.

UNITED KINGDOM

GOC British Isles/IU620– F. Lee, Secular Hall
75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB.
0533-661835

London Group and Couriers Union– 10a
Bradbury Street, London N16 8JN. Couriers
Union Hotline 071 358 9124

Oxford Group & Oxford Claimants and Unem-
ployed Workers Union– East Oxford Commu-
nity Centre, Princes Street

Central Scotland IWW and Postal Workers– PO
Box 1094, Glasgow G14 0EL

Health Workers IU610 Contact: Harry Girling,
c/o Ipswich Community Resource Ctr, 16 Old
Foundry Rd., Ipswich IP4 2DU

IU660 Contact: Ray Carr, 22 Brunswick Square,
Herne Bay, Kent CT6 5QF

Swindon Region GMB/IU670 & Research
Councils IU620 Group– Del: Kevin Brandstatter,
Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon
SN2 1UH; Tel: 0793-610707

Somerset– Davey Garland, Box23, 5 High St.
Glastonbury Somerset.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

Mendocino– Bill Meyers, del. 707/884-1818.
San Diego Group– PO Box 49735, San Diego
92159. 619/284-WOBS

SF Bay Area GMB– PO Box 40485, 94140.

Branch Hall: 1095 Market St. #616; Open
Thursdays, 11 am - 5 pm. 415/863-WOBS

Santa Cruz GMB– PO Box 534, 95061
<sciww@ucsc.ucsc.edu>

IU450 New Earth Press Job Shop– 1921 Ashby
Berkeley 94703 (510)549-0176

IU620 Job Shop UCB Recyclers– 620 Eshleman
B'k'ly 94720 Daniel Widener

IU670 Berkeley Recycling Ctr. Job Shop– M.
Carlstrom, 2515 Piedmont #8, 94607

Los Angeles GMB– Meets 2nd, 4th Sundays.
Location call (24hr): 213/368-4604. Andrew
Willett 1724 Westmoreland Blvd., LA 90006.

IU630 Film Workers– Miguel Sanchez, 1724
Westmoreland Blvd. LA 90006 213/368-4604

COLORADO

IU450 P&L Printing Job Shop– 2298 Clay,
Denver 80211. 303/433-1852

Denver/Boulder– Del: Cliff Sundstrom 910 E. 8th
Av. #202, 80218. 303/832-7602. Brendan
Ruiz, POB 370663, 80237-0663

GEORGIA

Atlanta Group– 340 Elmira Pl, 30307. 404/
524-1243. Lorenzo Ervin Kom'boa, del. – 218
Adair Ct. #5, Decatur GA 30030. 404/687-8324

HAWAII

O'ahu GMB– PO Box 11928, Honolulu 96822;
808/247-8584; email: wilcox@uhunix.uhcc.
hawaii.edu

ILLINOIS

Chicago GMB– 4043 N. Ravenswood #205
60613. (312)549-5045. Meets 1st Fri. 7:30 pm.

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge Group– Steve Donahue 729
Bungalow Ln 70802. (504)389-9572.

MARYLAND

Baltimore GMB– Tarawa IWW, PO Box 88821,
21224. Del: \$ Bey, 301/367-3024

MASSACHUSETTS

IU630 GOC– Jim Barclay, 75A Elm St.
Worcester 01609

MICHIGAN

SE Mich. GMB– 103 W. Michigan Ave.,
Ypsilanti 48197. 313/483-3548

IU630 Workers Stories Workers Lives Job Shop–
Albert Parsons (313)769-0695

IU670 Ann Arbor Tenants Union Job Shop–
4001 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor 48109. 313/
763-6876.

MINNESOTA

Duluth GMB– 1514 N. 8th Avenue E, 55805.
Del: Jack Rosenquist

MISSISSIPPI

Gulfport Group– C.G. Streuly 601/896-3515

MONTANA

Butte– Mark Ross 111 W. Quartz 59701.
(406)782-4465

NEW YORK

IU670 Socialist Party USA Natl Office Job Shop–
516 W. 25th St. #404, NYC 10001. 212/691-0776

Capital District Group– POB 74, Altamont NY
12009. (518)861-5627

Rochester– Del: Ric Garren, 716/232-4005

NYC GMB– Del: Wade Rawluk, 5610 Netherland
Ave #4D, Bronx NY 10471. 718/796-3671.

Rochelle Semel, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick
13348. 607/293-6489

PENNSYLVANIA

IU630 Boulevard Bingo Job Shop– Tina Gaffney
(215)821-5622

Lancaster Group– PO Box 2084, 17608

Lehigh Valley GMB– POB 4133 Bethlehem
18018 (610)515-0181. Del: Trish D'Amore 434-
0128. email: len.flank@father.com

Reading Group– PO Box 8468, 19603. Dels:
Dennis Good (215)921-2459; Rick Page
(215)562-3487

Philadelphia GMB/IU450 Duplicators Network–
4722 Baltimore Ave. 19143. (215)747-0855.

IU660 Wooden Shoe Books Records Job Shop–
112 S. 20th St. 19103. (215) 569-2477. <ulrike@
templevm.bitnet>

SOUTH CAROLINA

IU450 Harbinger Publications Job Shop– Merll
Truesdale, 18 Bluff Rd. Columbia 29201. 803/
254-9398

TEXAS

Austin Group– PO Box 49523, 78765. 512/
416-9619

Houston Group– PO Box 981101, 77098.

UTAH

Salt Lake Branch– Tony Roehrig, PO Box 520514,
Salt Lake City 84152-0514. 801/485-1969

VERMONT

Burlington Group– Anne Petermann, Orin
Langelle POB 804, 05402. (802)658-2403.
<peacejustice@igc.apc.org>

WASHINGTON

IU460 Fairhaven Co-op Flour Mill Job Shop–
1115 Railroad Ave. Bellingham 98225.

Industrial Transportation Project– Arthur Miller,
POB 5464, Tacoma 98415-0464

Puget Sound GMB– POB 20752, Seattle 98102.
206 367-0477

WISCONSIN

IU450 Lakeside Press Job Shop– 1334
Williamson, Madison 53703 608/255-1800

Madison GMB– Box 2605, 53701. (608)
255-1800. Del: Tim Wong, Jerry Chernow

UK IWW Gaining Fast

We now have three workplace groups in education and a small union organising committee among couriers. Job control among employees of the Oxford Claimants Union and growing membership elsewhere...

Education Workers

A group of seven now exists in Edinburgh, six at one site who have formed a job branch. There is a possibility of an Industrial Union Branch in the offing. Already the members have had a meeting with college management, supported a member whose fitness to work was being reviewed and circulated a few thousand leaflets announcing the EWIU to colleagues in education throughout the city.

A group of four has been built up in the research council offices in Swindon. Meetings are held every fortnight. The group is keen that the name of the EWIU is changed to the Education and Research Workers Industrial Union.

A group of five is being established at Keele University, Stoke on Trent. They will apply for job branch status soon. Members and prospective members have been involved in anti rent hike protests and won a victory over the college "hospitality" organisation who were bent on imposing a 10 percent rise. The group is organising a meeting on May Day and are seeking premises for a student-worker centre.

There are other individual members of IU 620 in Coventry, Birmingham, Oxford, Plymouth, Leicester, Norwich and London.

Couriers Union

The couriers in London have had four monthly branch meetings. Interest in a union is gaining ground in the industry and contact has been established with an independent committee of cycle couriers from one of London's biggest firms. Thousands of leaflets and stickers have been handed out or stuck to lamp posts, in lifts and in courier company premises. There are problems getting couriers to attend meetings at the end of a 10 to 12 hour shift so alternatives are being thought up.

A Couriers union hotline has been established on 0171 358 9124 and an accommodation address exists in North London.

Unemployed Workers

IWW members employed at the Oxford Claimants and Unemployed Workers Union are holding a conference for independent claimants and unemployed workers groups from around the country in March. The aim of the conference is to pool resources and perhaps encourage independent union organising of the unemployed.

Local organising

Groups exist in the following towns and cities: Aberystwyth, Doncaster, Leices-

ter, Kent, Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff, Swindon, Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Coventry and Keele, along with a handful of individual members.

So things are slowly starting to move. We have plans for a selection of embroidered sweat shirts and tee shirts, enamel badges and the production of IU specific recruitment forms. An organising manual is being written along the lines of the old IWW one but changed in the light of local economic and legal conditions.

The daring among us are hoping for membership of 100 by the union's 90th birthday.

— Kevin Brandstatter

Education Workers Organizing Bulletin

The Winter 1995 issue of the *Education WOB* is now available. Published by the Education Workers Industrial Union 620 (IWW) Organizing Committee, the *Bulletin* is sent to EWIU members and others who ask to receive it. The Winter issue reprints the text of an organizing leaflet issued by Edinburgh education workers, reports on the Jan. 25 Canadian student strike, and publishes a letter from a Los Angeles teacher calling for an end to AFL-CIO company unionism. Also included are short news notes, a report on "downsizing" universities, and a regular column on resources for education workers.

Subscriptions to the *Education WOB* are \$4 per year (4 issues), sample issues will be sent on request. EWIU-IWW, 4043 N. Ravenswood #205A, Chicago IL 60613.

IW Sustaining Fund

Contributions January - March, 1995	
Jim Emerick	\$5
Heather McAllister	2
William Johansen	35
George Marsik	5
Carlos Cortez	5
D.C. Holiman	5
Mike Levinson	10
Ken Ouimet	5
Louis Prisco	15
James Kodl	35
Jack Wheeler, in memory of an Albion lady named Syd	35
Total:	\$157
Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.	

Around Our Union

Wobbly May Day Plans

British Isles

UK Wobs will be taking part in a number of May Day activities some of which will include opposition to the World Bank/IMF. In London, Wobs will be taking part in the traditional May Day march. The march attracts few politicians but many libertarians,

with groups such as the Solidarity Federation, the Anarchist Communist Federation and others "massing" behind their banners.

The march is more notable for the enormous blocs present from among ethnic minority political communities. The Turkish Communist Party, the Kurdish Workers Party, the Iranian Communists are all there in great numbers. The event is very noisy, colorful, and the marchers usually number between 4 and 5 thousand.

The traditional Oxford Mayday bookfair takes place on May 6 and the IWW will have a stall. On display this year will be a new line in IWW merchandise - hooded jogging tops (black with hood) and black tee shirts both with embroidered IWW globe. A new selection of screen printed IWW cats and One Big Union t-shirts will also get their first outing.

In Stoke on Trent, the IWW is holding a meeting at the local college to publicize the reasons for May Day, our opposition to the world bank and the need for one big union of the working class. Details have not been finalized at press time, but can be had from any IWW contact in the UK. Other events are planned for Edinburgh and other cities.

Madison, Wisconsin

Madison Wobs are joining with other labor activists to sponsor a series of political, educational and cultural events beginning April 28th with a delegation to the Labor Notes Conference (through the 30th) in Detroit. On Monday, May 1 there will be an International Workers Day demonstration in downtown Madison. Concerts are planned for the evenings of May 2nd, 3rd (Irish labor and revolutionary music at Micky's Tavern), and 5th (Workers' Sing Along at the Madison Labor Temple). The week of events will conclude with a workers' picnic in Tenny Park with food, beer, lit tables, music and speakers. Other events were being considered and final details were

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Winnipeg Wobblies are participating in a series of events called by the central May Day Committee beginning with a May Day parade on the evening of May 1st which will conclude with a rally and fireworks at the legislative building. A Woody Guthrie memorial concert is planned for the 20th, and a Solidarity Social (on the theme of solidarity after NAFTA, and Central and South American music) on the 27th.

Food Bin Workers Organizing Update

Workers at the Food Bin Inc. have presented the boss with a set of proposals for change including provisions for a general wage hike, a raise in the starting wage, monthly staff meetings, paid training, a hiring committee, a grievance committee etc. However, workers - perhaps intimidated by the firing of IWW organizer Corin Drummond (see article last issue) - are attempting to pursue these issues without a union, and seeking "nonconfrontational" ways of improving the job.

However, over time the limitations of dealing with the boss from an unorganized position of weakness should become clear. The boss is playing open-minded and conciliatory right now (with the not-so-hidden threat of more firings up his sleeve), after the shock of seeing workers begin to organize for better conditions. But ultimately it is not in his interests to pay better wages or grant workers more rights, and Food Bin workers will get only what they organize and fight for. The IWW will be there when they decide they are serious about better conditions.

being worked out for some events at press time. For details call the Madison Branch at 255-1800.

Houston, Texas

The fledgling group of Wobs in Houston has endorsed Homes for All's call for an international rent strike and squat for May 1st, 1995. Members are planning a series of cultural and educational events leading up to May Day which began with a March 17th talk by FW Nelson and a week of door-to-door canvassing. On March 18th, local Wobs held a commemoration at the grave of IWW member Johnny Kane, who died defending the union hall in 1936.

April 29th the Houston group will host a festival at Allen Parkway Village, a dilapidated housing project slated to be torn down by the city. The festival will feature local blues bands, speakers and an organizing drive.

On May Day there will be a march on Houston City Hall. (The fellow workers did not include details on time and venue - write PO Box 981101, Houston 77098 for information.)

Chicago, Illinois

The Chicago General Membership Branch is planning a May Day eve (actually mid afternoon) celebration on April 30th, and a May Day demonstration on Monday at 4 pm at the Federal Reserve Bank in downtown Chicago. The demonstration is in conjunction with the international day of action against the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and the efforts of the capitalist class to force our fellow workers throughout the world into the direst misery.

[Other actions are planned for London's financial district, New York City, and in Argentina, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Nepal, Spain, and Sweden. Workers in several other countries have expressed interest, and many more actions are certain.]

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Winnipeg Wobblies are participating in a series of events called by the central May Day Committee beginning with a May Day parade on the evening of May 1st which will conclude with a rally and fireworks at the legislative building. A Woody Guthrie memorial concert is planned for the 20th, and a Solidarity Social (on the theme of solidarity after NAFTA, and Central and South American music) on the 27th.

A play based on the Winnipeg General Strike will be presented the weekend of May 6th and 7th in conjunction with the Canadian Association of Labor Media Conference. And throughout the month, a storefront gallery will feature posters, paintings, sculpture and other workers' art. For details on venues, etc., call FW Mike Desautels, 204/233-0008.

Salt Lake City, Utah

The Salt Lake City GMB is having a picnic and rally at Liberty Park beginning at 12:30 p.m. There will be speakers, entertainment, and food served by Salt Lake Food Not Bombs. Branch members will hold a private party (open to all Wobblies) on April 30th.

The Branch will sponsor a May Day concert featuring Utah Phillips and Rosalie Sorrels, joined by FW Mark Ross, on May 1 at the Tower Theater (900 South 876 East) beginning at 7:00 p.m. Any Wob needing travel arrangements or housing should contact Jenn at 801-566-0965 or Tony at 801-485-1969. Space for sleeping is beginning to get tight, so it is important to RSVP.

Wobblies in Minnesota are planning to join the annual Duluth May Day parade (details not available at press time), and there are doubtless many other IWW May Day events for which details have not firmed up in time for this listing. Ask your local delegate...

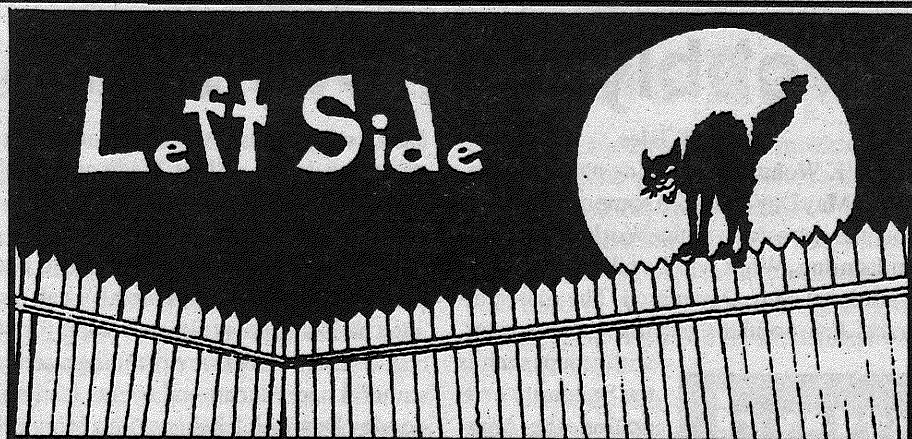
PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life. Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system." It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with the capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.



A few months ago I did a little bit in this column entitled "Slave Labor in Freedomland" which you Fellow Worker readers may or may not remember. Recently a letter was received at our editorial offices from the editor of *Prison Legal News* in which he states that I have plagiarized extensive sections of his article "Slaves of the State," which appeared in the May 1994 issue of his publication. He was kind enough to enclose a copy of his article as originally published.

Having never encountered *Prison Legal News* before, and through his letter having been made aware of his publication for the first time, I can only plead guilty to having plagiarized one of his plagiarizers. The greater source of inspiration for the gems of this column your scribe unabashedly gleans from other periodicals, and in the case of sister struggling publications I make a point of indicating the source. I no longer remember for certain from which publication I gleaned the material for "Slave Labor," but I think it was from one of those metropolitan freebies that circulate within upwardly mobile areas which get their principal financial remuneration from the real estate advertisers. Since they made no mention of the original source and since I have no compunctions about lifting from this particular rag, I used the material feeling that there was some information that needed to be passed on to the readers of our stalwart little rag.

Therefore please accept my belated acknowledgment, and be compensated by the knowledge that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. The article as published in *Prison Legal News* was considerably more thorough than the source from which I had originally gleaned. Had I seen the original publication, not only would I have been able to extend the courtesy of an acknowledgment, but I would have had the luxury of elaborating further in this column.

But back to these metropolitan freebies that afford their upwardly mobile readership forays into social consciousness. By now most major metropolitan areas have a plethora of these freebies that are bankrolled by the real estate sharks. In them you can find some insightful articles on what it means to live in the poorer sections of these large metropolii. You would think that the writers are ready to take out their red cards. But the ads in these rags not only advise the reader of the latest hot neighborhood to move into, but also serve as a Baedeker for the artsy coffee houses and trendy cabarets.

The latest red-hot neighborhoods are invariably erstwhile working-class areas where people have kept up their homes over a couple of generations that the real estate sharks have infiltrated and are "upgrading." The taxes accordingly go up, forcing the original residents to move. Where the sharks originally would break up working-class neighborhoods by moving in Blacks, they now rent cheap "loft space" or "studios" to artists so the area can become trendy and the affluent start moving in. The rents go up and eventually the artists are moved out as well.

I mention this only to indicate to whom these progressively minded columnists are writing. Insofar as the average reader of these freebies' main concern is upward mobility, these progressive writers are apparently casting their pearls before the swine. (My apologies to the porcine quadrupeds, of course.)

Perhaps I am being a bit uncharitable to these well-intentioned scribes, but obviously their writings are exposed to where they are going to do no harm, much less pose any threat to the real estate vultures who care even less for the lives they are disrupting. It's like making an appeal for prison reform to those who have never been to prison or establishing health food stores in neighborhoods where people don't get sick. Environmental pollution is the most rampant in areas where poorer people live, and you have another classic example of the class nature of our society.

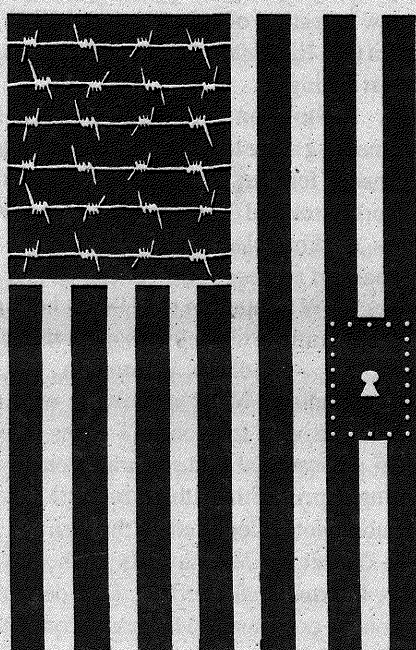
Proposition 187 is not going to stem the tide of unwelcome immigration any more than cutting off welfare payments to unwed mothers is going to solve the problem of teenage pregnancy. The SOBs down below know damn well that they have a safety valve in their misrepresented working class being able to migrate up North, rather than staying at home and having another revolution and straightening things out down there. Don't think for one moment that the SOBs below aren't reminding the SOBs up here of the dire consequences of their inflation-wracked and underemployed workers having the border gates closed off to them.

You can bet there is a tacit gentleman's agreement between the two groups of bureaucrats. You can indeed bet your bottom dollar there is honor among thieves!

Lay the boss off! It makes more sense!

— C.C. Redcloud

STARS AND BARS



In the USA: One out of every 176 people is now in prison. By the year 2000 there will be more than 2 million. (Huck 1995)

Prosperity...

Listening to the radio on the way home, the other day, I had the misfortune of catching a speech by Ford's new chairman, who was in Chicago promoting the company's 1996 models (the pre-dating on cars is even worse than on this newspaper). Anyway, he condemned those who insist on seeing a recession around us as dangerous maniacs. We are, he insisted, in the midst of economic prosperity – indeed, the economy is probably too prosperous, and we may need to tighten our belts a bit in order to ensure healthy growth. (Dangerous because if enough people believe there's a recession, they may stop buying cars and other such items, thereby hurting profits.)

Things may look mighty prosperous in the corporate boardrooms of America, though I suspect conditions look a bit less rosy to the laid-off autoworkers whose unemployment benefits long since ran out. I can tell you for a fact that the job market in Chicago – where the pols are boasting about having attained "full employment" – is mighty bleak. There are jobs being advertised, but damn few that pay well enough that a single person can support himself living in a small studio apartment on a rock-bottom budget. But that, no doubt, is the source of the "prosperity" that so delights the bosses. Cheap, hungry workers mean higher profits, at least in the short term.

Meanwhile, the business pages of the local capitalist rag warn that "Factory gains may alarm Fed." Factories are adding shifts, rehiring laid-off workers, and working overtime to meet booming customer articles, the article says. Ordinarily that would put workers in a better position to demand higher wages and better working conditions, but in this "economic recovery" the bosses have managed to hold wage hikes below the inflation rate, meaning that we're working for less (in terms of our buying power) than we were in the depths of the recession a few years ago. But it's not enough, and the paper quotes bankers worrying that the Fed will tighten the screws on the economy even tighter to make sure that none of this prosperity trickles down to the workers who create the world's wealth.

The Neutral State

An IWW member sends in a copy of the Colorado Dept. of Social Services' Application for Food Stamps – a form that may soon be of interest only to historians, if some congressmen get their way. Among the questions are two designed to screen out any rebel worker who insists on trying to better her (and her fellow workers') lot in life: "Is anyone in your household on strike?" and "Has anyone in your household quit a job in the last 60 days?" Of course, things could be worse. In some states you're ineligible for food stamps if your employer locked you out, and virtually all bar locked-out workers from unemployment benefits.

A Sudden Loss of Knowledge

Also in the mail is a leaflet offering IBM workers at huge discounts: "That's right, friends – you heard it here first! We can't lay 'em off, so we're selling them. ALL OF THEM!..."

"We have to get down to our new one-employee-per-business-unit goal, and you can help us do it. You say you want new? We got 'em. Employees with low mileage, high performance, and a lot of years left. You say you want old reliable? We got 'em. The paint's a little gray and they grumble a little, but they've seen it all and keep on working..."

"So Come One, Come All to the first annual IBM employee sale. Buy two and get a free PC!" In reality, of course, they don't need to sell them – increasingly companies just dump their "surplus" workers on the

scrap heap without even the most rudimentary severance pay.

A St. Louis programmer reports that after management laid-off one-third of their department workers stopped work for a meeting to discuss the situation. After returning to work "a strange thing happened, and not just to me. I experienced a sudden loss of knowledge. I've lost the ability to anticipate problems. I'm not sure I'll recognize them if my boss doesn't tell me exactly what they are and what I should do. And if my laid-off co-workers deleted some files, I wouldn't even know it..." (excerpted from March 1994 *News & Letters*)

Editor's Notebook

The Worker's Friend

Under the headline of "Masondo, the workers' friend," the *South African Labour Bulletin* reports on the great strides made by labor since the election of the ANC government: "It's amazing how much influence the working class has won in the new government... take Amos Masondo, for example." Before the election he was a regional secretary for COSATU (South Africa's largest union federation); today he is MEC for health. When Masondo visited several hospitals, shop stewards from NEHAWU (COSATU's health care workers affiliate) asked to meet with him to discuss working conditions. But when Masondo arrived at the hospitals, he walked right past the waiting shop stewards to greet the managers – never even acknowledging the existence of the workers whose struggles made it possible for him to enter the government. "Maybe strikes are a better way to show we exist," the article suggests, "that we didn't just disappear after the elections."

Building the IWW

Yesterday I took a call from a Kansas City reporter wanting some information on our Education Workers Industrial Union 620 – it seems one of their reporters stumbled across us on the internet. Elsewhere FW Chase reports on a FW who joined after stumbling across a copy of the *Industrial Worker*. When I was talking with a Staley striker to get some information on the lock-out he expressed interest in getting the paper. Hardly a week goes by when I don't hear from someone who happened across the paper or some other IWW literature.

The first step in convincing our fellow workers to join the IWW is making contact with them. Even the most active branch can't be equally visible in all parts of the community. But a couple of hours a month is enough to make sure the *Industrial Worker* is available in every bookstore (most will be glad to carry the paper on consignment terms – i.e., they pay 60 cents for every copy sold, and you take back any unsold copies) and news stand in town. One person will buy a copy and disagree – but perhaps they'll consider some of the issues we raise. Another will become a regular reader, perhaps a subscriber. Someone else might subscribe for a bundle to share with fellow workers. And others will become members.

Bundles of the *Industrial Worker* are just 50 cents per copy per month (and even cheaper for IWW members and branches) – there is no better way to reach out to the thousands of wage slaves you don't see on a regular basis. We can send bundles in any multiple of 5 copies, and can adjust the number to meet your needs. Why not order a bundle today?

And, while I'm at it, have you contributed to the *Industrial Worker* recently? I'm not talking about money (though we need money badly), but about articles. We need news of direct action, of IWW organizing, or rebellious wage slaves, of working conditions, of international solidarity. We can't publish it if we don't know about it... [JB]

The first warning of trouble comes from your sense of smell, for burning oil has a distinct aroma that sets off near panic within your brain. You turn your head in the direction that seems correct in time to see the coming of the smoke, like fog engulfing a harbor, but in super-fast motion. The smoke is dark and very heavy on the lungs.

The first reaction is to locate the source of the combustion and then send out the alarm. Time slows down to split second questions and decisions. Where and how large is the fire? Is there time to try to fight it? At what point should you pull out before the fire doors close and the dry chemical from the fire protection system is dispersed and displaces the oxygen and suffocates the fire along with all living things within the compartment.

As you rush to grab the nearest fire extinguisher more questions enter your mind. Is the fire near anything that could be explosive? Where are all the other workers? Are any injured? Are any of the avenues of escape blocked by the fire? Is the fire in or around the ventilation system? If so, should you first close down some dampers or maybe shut the whole system down? This last question is very important for two reasons: First,

trained working class. We need this so that when a crisis situation comes about it can be dealt with in such a way as to minimize any harmful effect. They are also needed to develop accident prevention methods.

Think about it for a moment (those of you who know little about ships); what would happen if you were placed in the middle of an engine room fire? The same thing that happens to those inexperienced and untrained crews – you would find that the only thing you are qualified to do is to run like hell, and even then you might have to be told which direction to run.

There was a cruise ship a little while back that had what started out as an engine room fire; they ended up having to have the passengers form bucket brigades, and the ship later sunk. In other words, the situation got so bad that the inexperienced crew lost control and panicked and tried to use inexperienced passengers, which meant that they were willing to put these people and themselves in harm's way just to try to save the

off to warn others working in the engine room. That left two of us to try to fight the fire.

We gave up the fight after the smoke forced us to our knees. We had to crawl to the bottom of the ladder way, then take a deep breath and run up the ladderway two levels through the smoke to the only hatch

low-paid, untrained and inexperienced workers to sail greasy deathtraps all over the world should be viewed as a crime against the working class, the passengers and the environment. And like other such situations, the only power to change this is the organized power of the working class. Unfortunately much of the unionized working

Fire in the Water

we could make it to. What saved our lives was that the upper fire door did not work and was still open. Had that door been closed there would have been no way we could open it before we were overcome by the smoke. Once out that door we made our way off the ship. From the time the fire started in the lower level of the engine room to the time we made it off the ship, no more than 15 minutes has passed. Once I was on the dock, I looked back at the ship and saw flames shooting out of the stack some ten feet in the open air.

When thinking back on it, what saved five workers was that the ship's fire protection system did not work. Like in most industries, the bosses think only of the protection of their capital investment, workers' lives are thus sacrificed on the altar of capitalist greed.

Most engine room fires are the direct result of two things – the lack of proper maintenance and greasy engine rooms. Most ships are only repaired in designated ports where the cheapest labor can be found. This means that needed repairs are put off. Because time is money in the capitalist system, engine rooms are not cleaned as they should be. Grease accumulates from the bottom of the bilge all the way up to the overhead deck and throughout the ventilation system. I have been on ships that seemed as if they had never been cleaned. Of all the horrors of the modern world, shipboard fires are one of the most preventable. The only thing that stands in the way of this is greed.

In this limited area of the overall industrial problem, it can be seen clearly that capitalist greed is the direct cause of death, injuries and environmental damage. Using

class is misorganized by business unions that hinder or suppress workers from taking on the struggle of health, safety and environmental protection. Though we do not yet have the organized power to deal with such situations, we should still develop solutions to these industrial problems.

In the case of shipboard fires the solutions would include:

1) The design and construction of ships should place safety, environmental protection and the working conditions of the crew over any other consideration.

2) All ships should be outfitted with all possible safety equipment, and that equipment should be well maintained.

3) All crews should be well trained in fire protection, which would include both prevention and fire fighting.

4) All crews should be made of experienced crews with apprentices in training.

5) All ships should undergo inspection and maintenance programs that would include a degreasing program and monitoring of any possible source of combustion.

Such demands should have the power of organized labor behind them, and if a ship owner were to refuse then none of the ships would be sailed, repaired, serviced, loaded or unloaded. In other words, those rust buckets would just sit. It will only be through the development of solutions to the industrial problems of health, safety, environmental protection and other such problems that the working class will be able to overcome the harmful effects of capitalism. For not only must the working class seize the means of production, but we must also learn how to use it safely.

— Arthur J. Miller



the system could be feeding the fire by blowing air on it or making it burn faster by sucking air out. Second, if the grease in an up-take of a ventilation system catches on fire, it could spread the fire throughout the ship.

In trying to fight the fire you must first locate the major hotspot and then try to analyze how the fire is spreading. Then you must decide where and if you are going to fight it. In deciding where to place yourself to fight the fire you must not be where the fire can cut off your escape route. In most cases you fight a fire at the base of the flames, but as you are doing that you must keep an eye on the smoke. This is because you may have to climb up through the smoke to get out if you cannot reach the escape hatch, or if the escape hatch is full of smoke.

In a situation like a shipboard fire, experience and training will make the difference between workers' deaths and save lives, between a small, contained fire and a ship sinking. More and more, the papers are full of stories of shipboard fires, and yes, these incidents are increasing. The trend of the New Economic Order is to find the cheapest labor possible and to produce cheap products and cheap maintenance at the expense of safety, quality control, wages and working conditions, and environmental protection.

The viewpoint of the employing class is to cut costs to the bare bone to maximize profit and to face the consequences (or pass the buck) only when they are forced to. In other words, the capitalist system is nothing more than a big crapshoot; each time the dice is rolled Mother Earth and the working class are in danger.

The point of this article is that to face the problems and dangers of industry we need to develop an experienced and well-

boss's money-maker.

To effectively fight such a fire you need to not only know the questions you must ask yourself, but also be able to answer those questions yourself, for you could find yourself cut off from those who are more knowledgeable than you. You must also be able to overcome your fear. With the situation around you deteriorating fast, smoke and fire racing towards you and that gut-level fear beginning to surge through you, the only way to overcome such fear is through the confidence in your knowledge that you possess that will tell you how to react to the situation. It may be a bit too easy to think about what you may do in such a situation from the outside, but take it from someone who has been through a number of shipboard fires, you don't want to be caught there without knowing what to do.

The worst of the fires I have experienced was down in New Orleans on an old ship that serviced the Panama Canal. We were on the ship to do some repairs when the Port Engineer asked one of our crew to burn some bolts off for him. The worker who did the burning was new to ships and he took the Port Engineer's word that all was safe to burn. The bolts to be burned off were right below a ventilation up-take. Not knowing any better, they did not first close the damper on the vent. A spark was drawn up into the vent and set the grease in it on fire.

Since the up-take sucks air by mechanical means, the fire raced up through the vent. I first smelled the burning grease and looked up to see thick black smoke pour out an opening in the vent. By the time I could stand up burning grease was falling on us from the overhead vents. The burner one level below me was not aware of the fire and was still burning. One crew member was sent to sound the alarm, while another went

Murder by Asbestos

"The government, businesses, the Health & Safety Executive and experts are all guilty of playing their part in the mass murder of people at work and in the community," said Tony O'Brien, Secretary of the British Construction Safety Campaign (CSC). "Despite clear evidence of the risks," he continues, "they allowed asbestos into our workplaces, homes and public buildings. Their complacency has caused the deaths of thousands. Hundreds of thousands more are going to die needlessly."

Deaths from the asbestos cancer, mesothelioma, are currently running at 3,000 every year. The government predicts this will rise to between 5,000 and 10,000 a year.

"As our economy falls, de-regulation of health and safety at work continues and our housing stock, schools and public buildings continue to fall into disrepair, it will be construction workers, tenants and their children, and other groups of workers that will pay with their lives," said Rose Dunn, Chair CSC.

The CSC and other campaign groups have demanded a total ban on asbestos, both in the UK and the rest of the world. Instead UK imports of asbestos roofing products for construction rose by 25% last year.

Recent evidence from the USA shows one in five long term demolition workers have x-ray evidence of asbestos disease.

Workers who complain about asbestos

exposure do not get controls or masks – they get sacked.

The CSC demands workers have the right to a safe working environment and to be able to raise questions of safety without fear of the sack. Workers must be given the right to immediate re-instatement without the fear of victimisation if they are sacked for raising a safety issue.

The Construction industry has one of the worst safety records. On average 100 workers are killed every year in the UK in predictable and preventable accidents. Employers in the construction industry have the worst reputation for cutting corners on safety to extend their profits. They risk the lives of workers on a daily basis.

The CSC demands that where it is proven an employer is guilty of causing the death of a worker, either in an accident or as a result of an occupational disease, the employer must face a mandatory prison sentence. In certain instances a prison sentence for exposing people to hazardous substances such as asbestos should also carry a mandatory prison sentence. Fines on construction companies are no deterrent.

Despite the fact that annually 100 construction workers die in accidents, hundreds are disabled and maimed, hundreds of thousands are injured and made unwell by their work, no guilty construction employer has ever received a prison sentence.

UK Anti-Labor Law Aids Unionisation?

The Trades Union Congress (TUC), the British equivalent of the AFL-CIO, reports that in 1994 membership declined from 7.2 million members down to 6.8 million members over the year. Much of this was due to new laws on check-off agreements with the bosses. From August 1994 it became illegal to deduct union dues from workers' wages without their written consent, the campaign to encourage workers to realise the value of union membership resulted in 94% signing written authorisation.

As always there are two sides to every story. The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) always opposed the new law, partly on the basis that they would not know the strength of the unions, partly because they realised they would lose a weapon if workers opted to pay their dues direct to the union and partly because they thought the authority of the unions would be undermined. In the course of their campaign they revealed their need for unions to act as the policemen of agreements.

The campaign to encourage members to re-affirm their union membership, however, had repercussions the conservative government never expected (although the CBI spotted them). Unions were forced to campaign for collective organisation and stress the need for strong unions; the weaker (i.e. right wing) unions were forced to say what they had actually done to deserve members' support. Unions had to visit every workplace at least once.

All these things made sure that the role of unions was at least promoted (i.e. to organise to OPPOSE the boss); that the complicity of some (most) unions in supporting capitalism was exposed; and that the practice of employing the bosses to collect union dues was fraught with danger. At the end of the day then the idea of collective organisation came out a lot stronger than it had done and the IWW should be in a position of exploiting this by being honest about all the issues that developed.

Wobbly Actions on the Buses

96 bus drivers, from Chelmsford, a small town to the east of London, spent Christmas on the dole because they cared about their passengers. Some drivers at Eastern National, a subsidiary of Badgerline Holdings (a national private bus company) were expected to drive for almost five hours without a break – causing fatigue and stress-related illnesses and increasing the risk of accidents. When the company refused to take their concerns seriously, the drivers felt they had no choice. After ensuring that all the town's school children had been safely delivered they took a few hours strike action to demonstrate how strongly they felt.

The 96 were sacked on November 18, 1994 and the company has refused to talk seriously with the union, the Transport and General Workers Union, ever since. The drivers were replaced by scabs. Retired drivers have been coaxed back to work, managers and inspectors have been dragged in from other parts of the country and many have not driven a bus for years. They do not know the routes, have had no training, and are a danger to anyone foolish enough to board a scab bus. Needless to say many do not and the company is reputed to have lost two million pounds since the dispute began.

The union has responded by launching a service of its own. A number of minibuses have toured the routes formerly covered by Eastern National and have offered free rides to anyone that wants them. The demand has been so great that the union is introducing more buses over the next few weeks.

While the buses are free the passengers often make voluntary donations to keep the buses running and the union drivers have evolved some good tactics. (e.g. See a scab bus, follow it, overtake and pull up in front of it just before a bus stop, steal all its passengers, drive off! If driving a car, pretend to break down in front of a scab bus just before a set of traffic lights. Wait till driver gets extremely mad, magically find fault and drive off. Get on a bus, ask for a destination as far away as possible, wait for tickets, fumble in pocket for change, inform drivers none of your change wants to be near a scab, leave bus. Driver has bundle of unused tickets to explain on return to depot. See scab bus, meticulously check for possible faults, phone police with details – this is not always successful as the police do not want to side with the sacked workers.)

Union Fined After Doing Bosses' Job

The last issue of the *Industrial Worker* reported that postal workers in London had taken spontaneous strike action in opposition to an agreement reached between union bosses and post office bosses. The union did all it could to sabotage the action and eventually ensured its collapse. Not content with the actions of the Communication Workers Union however Post Office management took the union to court under the government's anti-union laws. The judges accepted that the union was behind the strike and levied fines and costs totaling some one hundred thousand pounds.

In a separate development union members employed by Post Office Counters Ltd struck on Monday 6 March against the closure and privatisation of post offices. Union organisation around the strike was very poor with little rank-and-file involvement in the building of the strike. In the end only 1,600 of 3,500 members took part in the action and disruption was minimal with non-union and management workers manning the counters.

Mine Pace Hots Up

RJB Mining took over many of the remaining mines in Britain following privatisation. They also own the majority of the open cast mines around the country and in effect have a monopoly.

So far the company has refused to recognise the National Union of Mineworkers, which has about 5,000 members among the company's 10,000 employees. It also refuses to recognise the breakaway Union of Democratic Miners, representing 2,000 miners and the Transport and General Workers Union which recruits at open cast sites.

The company wants to freeze pay for three years via an American style contract,

reduce the "health and safety" burden on the company and generally keep costs as low as possible. While all this is going on senior executives have been awarded massive pay hikes and share options.

The response of the NUM has been to call a conference which agreed to go to ballot for industrial action. The war of words (and nerves) continues.

Scots Miners Strike Against Themselves

In a bitter twist of irony Britain's first co-operatively owned mine saw a spontaneous 24-hour walkout by the miners who bought the pit in the first place!

In 1994 the co-operative agreed on the need to ingest outside capital to further develop the pit. The mine ownership was reconstituted with a minority stake for the miners themselves and a majority for the outside company. Using their majority shareholding the privateers brought in new management for the pit, who have since decided unilaterally to cut the production bonus and thereby reduce the miners' earnings, this prompted the 24-hour walkout. To date the issue has not been sorted out and the miners expect to strike against the co-operative again in the near future!

Unfortunately this episode demonstrates somewhat the futility of alternative means of ownership in capitalist economy. All that is happening is that the miners are being forced to seek outside funding and exploit themselves!

Grim Economic Stats from Britain

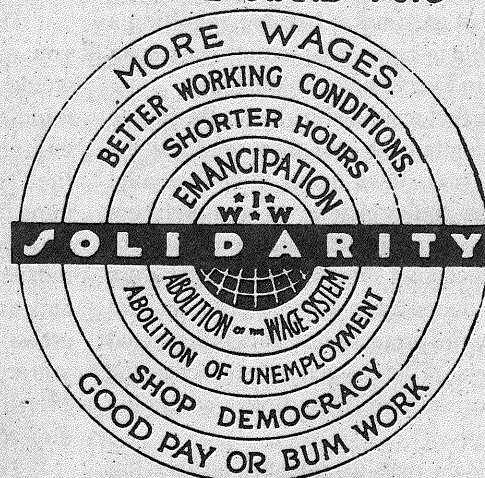
Figures produced by the Department of Employment on strike action show that the level of strike action fell to its lowest since the depression of 1920. In the twelve months to November 1994 only 238,000 days were lost in strike action, compared to 701,000 for the equivalent period to November 1993. The number of strikes declined by a quarter and the number of strikers fell by two thirds.

Many areas are effectively strike free (agriculture, coal and energy production, and chemicals and man made fibre production and some such as clothing, textiles and footwear production show very little action.

The reasons for this are not too difficult to fathom.

The organisation of the business unions

I.W.W.
WHAT WE STAND FOR.



THINK IT OVER.
JOIN THE
ONE BIG UNION
FIGHT FOR THE FULL PRODUCT
OF YOUR LABOR

has been smashed in engineering and manufacturing industries with about 25% membership in the sectors, the coal miners are just recovering from privatisation and are slowly rebuilding their local organisation, the energy unions are bought off by higher pay and good conditions, with an increasing tendency to seek to identify them as professionals rather than workers.

Unemployment remains stubbornly high with 2.8m according to the states figures and 4.5 - 5m according to the independent Unemployment Unit. Many worker perceive a threat from this reserve army of labour to their ability to fight back and this prevents some wage struggles from developing. Fear is the key.

Since 1979 the government has passed a series of laws making it extremely difficult for unions to take legal industrial action, all ballots must be postal, notice must be given to the employer of the names and addresses of those to be balloted, what form proposed action will take, who will be involved, when it will start and end, and seven days notice must be given of any action. If any of these steps goes wrong the union is liable to fines, compensation for the employer and sequestration of assets! No wonder the business unions are scared.

Perhaps more importantly a series of massive defeats in the 1980s of which the miners strike was the best example seemed to show many workers that the labour movement was hopelessly divided, scared of the government, and not willing to back those in struggle. As usual the working class got it right on all three counts!

The trade unions have suffered from not realising that the state and capital have been out to either neuter or destroy working class organisation. Even those whose livelihoods depend on having unions (the bureaucrats) have by and large preferred not to come to terms with the fact of this class war.

However there is a good side to every story. Unions are about 80% organised in the public sector and members are starting to get very angry over government imposed pay policy. The normally placid Royal College of Nursing, a tame union with about 50 percent of all nurses, has talked of the need for strike action over pay. Teachers have been pushed to the forefront of battles over cuts in education and unions elsewhere are again making pay demands. In the background (and the foreground) the IWW is explaining the hopelessness of faith in the bureaucracies to achieve anything and the need to abolish wage slavery as a proper way to ensure all workers get the full benefit of the value of production. This is perhaps why our membership is climbing and continues to do so...

MAY DAY GREETINGS TO ALL FELLOW WORKERS

All are invited to join the SALT LAKE BRANCH in celebrating May Day and the 90th Anniversary of the IWW. Beginning with a Picnic and Rally at Liberty Park on April 29th starting at 12:30 pm. This will include special speakers, entertainment, and food served by the Salt Lake Food Not Bombs. Sunday April 30th we will have a private party for all Wobblies. Monday May 1, 1995 Utah Phillips & Rosalie Sorrels with special guest fellow worker Mark Ross will be performing at the Tower Theater 900 South 876 East SLC, UT at 7:00 pm.

**SOLIDARITY TO ALL WORKERS
FROM THE SALT LAKE CITY G.M.B.**



A Vision of Revolutionary Industrial Unionism

by Arthur J. Miller

My vision is of a day when workers can leave home and not worry about the dangers they must face at work. For health and safety would be the priority and the responsibility of all. My vision is of the day when every worker knows their labor is for production for the well-being of all, not for the profit of a few. I would see workers controlling the tools of production, and both individually and collectively taking responsibility for the effects of that production; including, but not limited to, safety, health and the environment. I also envision a time when there is an understanding that social issues and industrial issues cannot be separated, but must be integrated together into the evolution of social change.

But visions are worthless daydreams if there is no means to achieve them. So my vision must look back in time to be able to look forward.

In 1905 a group of workers came together to start up an organization based upon the experiences of workers gained through direct labor struggles. That organization, the IWW, developed very simple ideas. First, they understood that the employing class was an organized class and that only when the organized power of the working class was greater than the orga-

nized power of the employing class would we achieve the emancipation of the working class. Thus, when they structured the IWW they did so by developing the most effective industrial means possible. In other words, to build the most powerful labor weapon that could be imagined.

All workers on the same job in the same job organization (no trade unionism), all jobs in the same industry in the same industrial union, all similar industrial unions in the same industrial department, and all workers belong to the organized solidarity of the working class, the One Big Union. They saw that the employers were not just local businesses, rather the power of the employing class was international, and thus the power of the working class had to also be internationally organized.

Out of all this came the IWW belief in international revolutionary industrial unionism. It is my view that those conclusions made 90 years ago are even more significant today than they were back then. For the organized power of the employing class is far greater than it was in 1905.

So my vision would include returning to the principles of international revolutionary industrial unionism that the IWW has

drifted away from. The IWW should return to industrial organizing rather than single shop organizing, for there is little industrial power in a single shop and that is why we lose most of those campaigns. In the real world it is greater power that wins, and the

The IWW At 90 Reflections on our Future

greatest organized power of working people is industrial, not single shops or trade unions.

To regain our direction, it is my view that we should target an industry and pool resources, develop organizing teams, organize direct support within the IWW for the industrial organizing campaign, and then set out to build the industrial unions we dream of.

No vision should ever become stagnant in time, rather it should be able to evolve. My future hope for the IWW would include such things as more community-industrial union interaction, for communities can help win strikes and the labor movement should help communities win their struggles. I would like to see the idea of working-class revolutionary ecology develop, for most

environmental problems are industrial problems, and it is the working class that is at the point of production, and it is only the organized power of the working class that has any chance of effectively dealing with these problems. Also, I would like to see more flexibility in our structure, because different people do things in different ways around the world. For an example, a traditional Native band should be able to plug into our industrial network without giving up their traditional way of life.

And last, I would put on my list a developing education program that studied the problems of industry and came up with real solutions. This would include such problems as making industry environmentally safe, combating racism and sexism and all the other "shitisms," and other such things. For I believe that anything that affects industry affects our industrial unions and should be dealt with.

In the days long ago, it was said many times that the IWW was like a religion, and in some ways it was. It all comes down to faith. The employing class tells us to have faith in them and their God. The IWW also tells you to have faith, but of a different sort: have faith in yourself and your fellow workers. That faith, that bond of solidarity, should be so great as to rival the strength of any spiritual faith known.

Where is the IWW heading?

by Carlos Murray

I think the future of IWW organizing is in three major directions: worker co-ops, alternative economy, and small wage shops. A more global focus, and inter-cultural activity, will also make a difference in how the union looks.

Worker Co-ops

One major direction is the taking control of work through the set-up of worker-owned cooperatives. This is needed by the growing numbers of unemployed, for whom there are no wage jobs available. The worker co-op can be a group of workers who offer a particular service or product. Joining together gives them more resources such as sharing tools.

The worker co-op can also take a form like a Temp agency, a resource for finding and sharing casual wage work that is available. This includes seasonal workers.

Another situation where the co-op is useful, is for various self employed or contract workers. Combining resources with other similar workers gives the independent or contract workers a better chance to find work, and can also provide some protection.

Wherever labor is sold, there is opportunity for the workers to improve the benefits they receive by cooperating. The IWW has the flexibility to adapt to any kind of work situation. Collective bargaining in the IWW can extend as far as collective management of enterprise.

The trend into worker co-ops began with IWW print shops and distribution (books and food) shops in the 1970s, and new efforts continue to be made such as the Temp Workers project in San Francisco. Worker co-ops are an answer to the isolation of many workers from each other, and create jobs on a self-managed basis.

Alternative Economy

A second major direction for the IWW is into alternative economy. This is just a better organized extension of what the IWW already offers, in mutual aid and solidarity. Features such as a barter system for members, food-buying co-ops, and member discounts for Union-made products and services, are tangible economic benefits that are immediately useful. Yet these benefits don't require a central bureaucracy to maintain, since they are locally based and laterally exchanged.

These kinds of services make union membership more attractive, even when the union can't promise instant wage gains or high powered lawyers. Such benefits are equally attractive to both employed and unemployed workers. These cooperative projects also serve to bring together the employed and unemployed members, and to bring together the various cultural groups for mutual benefit.

Small Shop Organizing

Yes, the IWW in the future has some traditional organizing to do. Successes at the Bingo Hall (Pennsylvania) and the End Up (California) show just what it takes to establish a presence in the small shops. What wage employment there is in the future, will be in small shops.

To my mind there is a question whether the capitalist regime will survive much longer. It appears to be running towards a wall. Given a sudden collapse of the world banking system, the IWW would then take on a different approach of organizing for cooperative production. But if the capitalists keep the wage system going, then the IWW will be organizing in small shops.

These workers at the Bingo and End Up

came out with a lot of energy and enthusiasm, and hit the boss from several directions at once. That is, with direct action on the shop floor (or picket line); by rallying community support with the use of local media; and on the legal front, applying for NLRB certification and pressing charges against boss violations.

This multi-level strategy is a formula that gives the boss a choice of engaging in complicated defensive moves, or accepting the union. I think the challenge that remains, is not only to carry out these kind of actions to establish a union presence, but also to develop a simple method of contract negotiations that is practical for both the workers and the boss in a small shop.

One factor about organizing small shops is that there are a lot of differences from place to place; and so, different demands by the workers. Still, I think a basic standard small-shop contract for each different industry will be useful to help establish a union presence in the small shop industries, by making the process of installing the union as simple as possible for ordinary people in the small business environment.

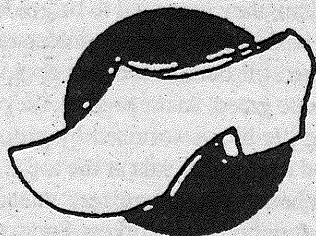
Global Spread

The other aspects of a changing face for the IWW, is international and inter-cultural

continued on page 9

Greetings of Solidarity on May Day

from the
**Madison GMB
and Lakeside Press**
IU450 job shop



One Big Union
Madison Branch IWW
P.O. Box 2605
Madison, WI 53701

MAY DAY GREETINGS



REMEMBER
Haymarket 1886
International
Workers' Day
May 1st

Greetings from the San Francisco
General Membership Branch,
Industrial Workers of the World

Build Solidarity Centers

by Dean Steede

The IWW has stood for solidarity more than just about any other union in history, and that is our strength. As an heir to the so-called "Bummary" IWW, I take pride in the idea that the IWW looks after the interests of those that are not working, don't have a stake in the system to prop them up, and who figure no one is going to care what happens to them anyway.

This means to me that the I need to promote the idea that the IWW is in solidarity with all the victims of the class war. Right now I don't feel that message is getting across. We talk about 'workers,' knowing in our own hearts that this is meant to include all the wage slaves of the world, but not realizing that the bosses have distorted the meaning of that word. I want the rest of us unfortunates to feel we have an equal place at the table, an equal voice in the process, and an equal standing in the struggle, no matter how we would define our victimization by the capitalist system and its bosses. For me, Solidarity, in its broadest form and function, is the way to do that.

There has been considerable discussion about the development of Workers' Centers (or De-Centers as one Wob group calls them). I see these as an excellent example of precisely where the IWW needs to go to accomplish its victory in the class war. But I was uneasy with the label "Workers' Center." It talked to me only as a worker, not as a homeless, wageless, sick and hungry class war victim. It seemed to be interested in the people who already had jobs, and consigned me to the streets again.

This gut response led me to think about the centers in a different way. The biggest problem with our class is that we have no sense of unity. Thus, I saw this germinal idea of Workers' Centers in a broader context, serving not only to allow more efficient organizing at the point of production, but also to allow education of the class, the first of the three stars in the IWW seal.

When I pictured a center that would

provide all this, I saw a place where the IWW would sponsor talks, assist in food distribution and housing assistance, start recruiting drives, coordinate job and protest actions, facilitate medical and self-help treatments of the class war victims. Pretty grandiose, eh? Pretty diffuse, eh? But as I read about the union halls of the past, both within the IWW and for other unions, I saw a lot of these ideas being made real in exactly those halls. After all, where else was the working class going to go?

The do-it-yourself spirit that is a credo for the IWW is one we have to emphasize in the creation of these Centers, but we have to be careful to avoid the "you're on your own" message while we're talking. All that rhetoric will do is alienate those who know full well that they're on their own, and who hear that every day from the bosses and the rest of their class enemies.

That is why, in my mind's eye, I see these halls as Solidarity Centers. A Solidarity Center is my vision of what the IWW can offer, once again, under a different rubric, to the entire class in a way that will unify them. I don't claim to be the first one to consider this concept, but I want to expand it beyond what most have thought it should be. I want the entire class to come together to sponsor these centers, so that there is a genuine sense of class unity that pervades the halls. I would have the Solidarity Centers provide education, help for the problems of life so many of the class are facing, even entertainment to lighten the load for a while and get the wage slaves smiling together instead of hiding in shame from one another.

As this Solidarity Center proves its value to the rest of the class, it will aggressively encourage every element, including other unions' workers and families, to take part in the creation and development of that or other Centers. The Solidarity that comes from mutual support and aid will empower each center beyond the boundaries of its local membership, and the solutions found in the creation of the first few will enable new ones to start and develop faster.

The IWW: Revolutionary

by Jeff Stein

The Industrial Workers of the World will celebrate its 90th anniversary this year. Whether it lives to be one hundred and beyond depends on its present membership. The central message of the IWW, as stated in the Preamble to the IWW Constitution, is still relevant. The capitalist system continues to exploit workers, who are responsible for the creation of all social wealth, and keeps most of this wealth in the hands of the parasitic employers. The only way to change this situation is for workers to unite and to take the management of their labor into their own hands in order to produce for social needs instead of for profit.

Good intentions, however, are not enough to keep a voluntary organization like the IWW going. New members must be recruited who are willing to carry the IWW message to the shopfloor. Strikes and job actions must be organized and won, to give workers confidence in their own strength and abilities. During the past few years the IWW has shown that it can make an impact for short periods at isolated workplaces. Ironically, given its "one big union" philosophy, what it has lacked has been a coordinated strategy to move beyond sporadic, one shop organizing drives towards building genuine industrial unions. Thus even when the IWW has successfully organized a workplace it has often been unable to build on that success. So the size of the IWW goes up and down depending on random events, an organizing opportunity here, a business closing there, as well as upon the general level of worker rebelliousness of the period.

As a small organization, we have little control over the level of worker rebellion. A return of the sort of rebel spirit of the 1960s and 1970s would be a shot in the arm for the IWW, as it would for most unions and radical organizations. Periods of protest, like periods of conservatism, come and go. We cannot predict when they will happen, nor can we wait and do nothing until better times. The revolutionary flame must be kept alive so that workers will be able to find us when they are ready. This means we must stay active, continue agitating, educating, and organizing as best we can. The IWW of tomorrow must be built within the shell of the present. A lethargic band of armchair unionists will not be capable of turning a

new generation of rebel workers into revolutionary unionists, even if these workers somehow manage to find us.

On the other hand, activism by itself, will not give birth to revolutionary industrial unions either. We must focus these efforts so that each organizing drive, each member recruited, leads to the next, until the entire operations of the same employer, the entire industry, and ultimately the entire

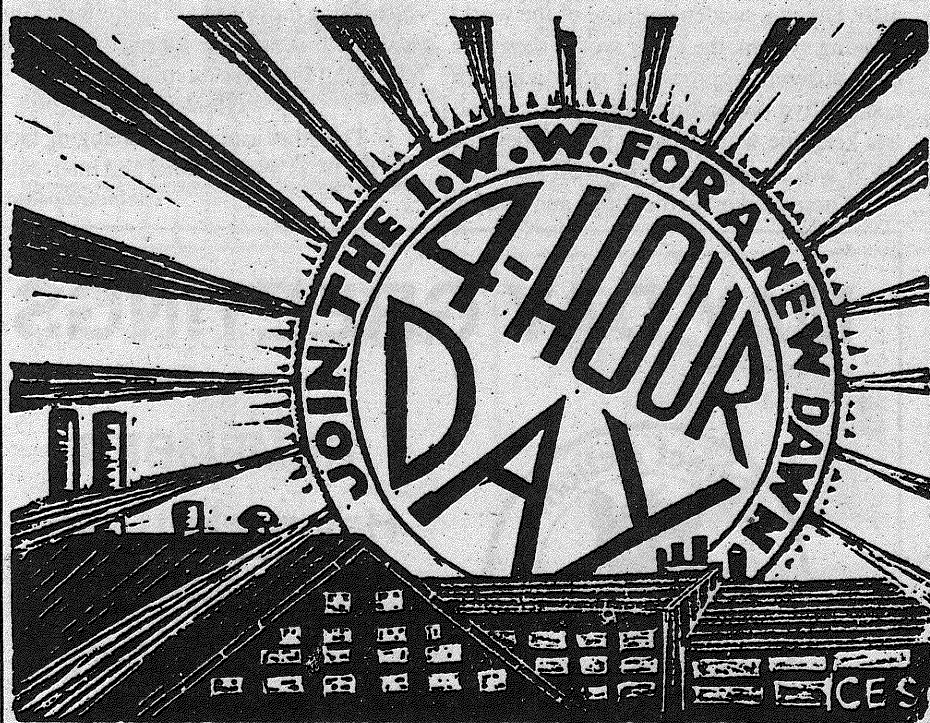
The IWW Reflections

This issue opens a series on the future of the IWW. We seek to present a variety of views on the coming decade, as we strive to realize our goals. J. Miller is a former chairperson of the IWW's Industrial Transportation Project, and a former GEB member and is working to organize. Dean Steede is a Wobbly computer programmer. Jeff Stein is a member of the Education Workers' Union.



May Day Greetings

from the Chicago General Membership Branch, IWW



**Expropriate the Expropriators
Direct Action of the Working Class
International Labor Solidarity**

Organizing Within

by Jennifer Madsen

Many members of the IWW are two-carders (holding membership in two unions). It seems that a lot, if not most, rank-and-file members in the AFL-CIO affiliated unions are dissatisfied and fed up with the way they are used and sold out by the fat cats at the top of the unions.

Union officials have allowed 80% wage contracts, no-strike clauses, 12-hour rotating shifts, and turned a blind eye to violations of safety procedures. Their attitude is "be glad you have a job." Local unions end up standing alone in their struggles without the backing of their International, and many times without the support of other trades and unions.

By supporting rank-and-file struggles, whether it be strikes, lock-outs, or wobbles, IWW organizers can teach the "mainstream" members that the answers to many of their problems can be found in One Big Union. Members of the unions should be encouraged to fight back within their own locals, and take the power back from their leaders

of doom. Continue paying dues for their hiring halls and benefits, but join and adopt the ideals of the One Big Union so that eventually the labor unions that we know today will be unnecessary and non-existent.

Rank-and-file members believe in Solidarity. They do not need to be taught about unionism, they just need to be guided back to the basics and helped to understand that they are still being used and exploited by corporate greed. At the present, they are just having the blows softened by propaganda handed out by officials at the top.

When IWW organizers attend other union functions let workers know that the IWW is their roots, and is still organizing,

y Unionism

working class is organized into one big union. To do this we have to break our old bad habits, of organizing randomly, and instead organize on an industrial basis. As a first step to this, I recommend we adopt the syndicalist method of forming "industrial networks," or non-recognized unions. The affiliates of the syndicalist international, the IWA, have adopted this method of organizing with success in Spain and France. In

W At 90 n our Future

the IWW to which all IWW members are invited perspectives on how best to build the IWW in revolutionary vision of One Big Union. Arthur General Executive Board, coordinator of the the editor of *Bayou La Rose*. Carlos Murray is anize Health Service Workers IU 610. Dean nifer Madsen is Salt Lake City GMB delegate. ers IU 620 Organizing Committee.

OURS!



TH THE ENERAL TRIKE RIAL FREEDOM

active, and continuing the fight. Urge fellow workers that belong to other unions to invite their brothers and sisters to any and all of the IWW actions, functions and meetings.

Keep informed about what is going on in your area and around the world. Talk with and work with the other labor groups. At times it seems frustrating, but with diplomacy, persistence and patience you can prevail. Organizers will soon see that these workers are a great asset to the union and usually become very active when given the incentives and the support.

Education is the key to emancipation., Direct action works not only on the job, but also in the union halls.

Spain the CNT has organized successful strikes in the Barcelona trucking industry. In France the CNT has done well among postal workers. In Sweden, the SAC, a syndicalist union not part of the IWA, has also been effective at organizing industrial networks among postal workers and others.

What makes industrial networks different than the IWW's current method of organizing is that employer recognition and formal union agreements are not considered the end-all of union activity. IWW members often find themselves in the minority where they work, either because they are the only union members in an unorganized workplace, or because a business union is the employer-government-recognized bargaining agent. According to the conventional scheme this leaves those IWW members with few options, basically involving a slow process of education towards convincing a majority of fellow workers to join the IWW and demanding the IWW be recognized by the employer and winning a union contract. An industrial network, on the other hand, would only require that IWW members build a small group of union supporters who could form a core of worker resistance using direct action techniques to pressure the employer to improve conditions without necessarily recognizing the IWW as having sole bargaining authority. The success of an industrial network would be measured more in terms of its ability to maintain a presence in the industry as a whole, and building solidarity between groups of workers at separate workplaces belonging to the same employer or in the same industry.

The difference between industrial networks and conventional organizing drives can be compared to guerilla versus conventional warfare. Like a guerilla army, the IWW is too small when dealing with most employers to duke it out along conventional lines. So we have to make up for our lack of strength by using surprise (quick job actions), mobility (union organizers moving between jobs in the same industry), and an ability to fade away into the surroundings before the employer can mount a full scale anti-union assault. Certainly job control should be the ultimate aim at any jobsite where this is a real possibility. To win, guerillas have to be able at some point to seize terrain, establish a "liberated zone," and be able to defend it. The tricky part is making this transition from one type of activity to the other. If you try to make the transition too soon, without building up enough strength in the industry, you just make it easy for the employers in that industry to isolate your union shop and crush it.

Some IWW members are already beginning to adopt industrial networking as a method of organizing. A small group of IWW members who work as teachers and support staff at various educational institutions have begun working towards building one big union in the education industry. They have published five issues of an education industry newsletter, the *Education WOB*. Plans are underway to hold an education industry meeting at this year's IWW Assembly. They are encouraging other IWW members who work in education to get involved. The IWW education workers network can be reached by writing to: EWIU 620 -IWW, 4043 N. Ravenswood #205, Chicago IL 60613

There are other industries, besides education, where there are a large number of wobblies who could also form networks. The retail service sector is one example where the union has had some organizing success in the past, which might benefit from a more industrial approach. The IWW's rank and file must begin to act more like a union, and less like a bunch of outside agitators trying to organize everywhere else but on their own jobs. Industrial networking can give the IWW a future.

Where is the IWW heading?...

diversity. We are in touch with workers in Europe and other parts of the world. The IWW itself will gain members, not only in the British countries and Australia, but in other countries. Most likely, IWW expansion will be centered in the English and Spanish speaking countries at first, with further expansion depending on overcoming the language barriers.

We will be in closer contact with syndicalist unions such as the CNT España, CNTF France, SAC Sweden, and many other groups in South America, Asia and Africa. Our activity will be more and more in the context of a global movement. This will be a little more complex at first, but it will strengthen our local efforts.

Inter-Cultural

Not just expanding outward internationally, but diversifying inwardly to unite various cultural groups. The cultural barriers are often harder to cross than the oceans. But the organizing work of Atlanta and Philadelphia branches recently, promises to open new channels of cooperation between the African and European cultures living in

North America. While the Santa Cruz and San Francisco branches have enabled the IWW to unite the cultures of gender.

So that is what I see happening, a move to strengthen and broaden our economic base by means of cooperation in economic life; with industrial presence in co-ops and small workplaces.

In the longer view of the next century, I think the IWW will be there to realize its purpose, of workers democracy. Between 1995 and 2020, I think we will see some major changes in the world, and capitalism will either pass away from the Earth, or undergo some drastic changes so that people have got control of it.

I'm looking forward to the world-wide celebration of IWW's 100th birthday, in the year 2005. I think that date will see the IWW in the middle of helping to re-organize industry and economy on a new basis.

Plans for the world-wide 100th IWW birthday party are well underway. Delegates have tickets for distribution to all workers. Contact the IWW delegate nearest you for a red card - your ticket to a better future.

Be a Wobbly — Join the IWW

Real Democracy! All policy decisions are made by referendum. The IWW has just one (modestly) paid officer, the General Secretary-Treasurer. The 7-member General Executive Board is elected annually by the entire membership. All officers may be recalled at any time by referendum. IWW workplaces and branches make their own decisions about bargaining and strategy.

To Join mail this form with a check or money order to IWW, 103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197, or contact your local delegate. **Dues:** Monthly income under \$800: \$5 per month; Income \$800-\$1700: \$9 monthly; Over \$1700: Dues \$12. Initiation Fee: Same as one month's dues. A low-income worker can join for as little as \$10.

- ☐ I affirm that I am a worker, and that I am not an employer.
- ☐ I agree to abide by the constitution and regulations of this organization.
- ☐ I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.

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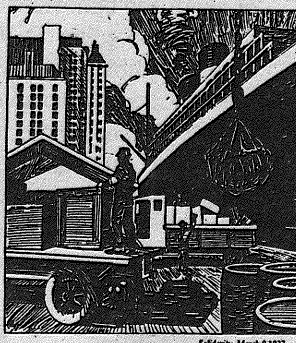
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MAY DAY MESSAGE

(If the strike's still on)

BOYCOTT SCAB BASEBALL

— Harry Siitonen
San Francisco Bay Area GMB

Is the IWW too radical?

A favorite objection raised by workers when asked to join the IWW is that the organization is "too radical."

Let us see if this objection is well grounded, and let us first find out what these workers mean when, largely under the influence of the lies systematically put out by the capitalist newspapers, they repeat, like a lot of parrots, that "the IWW is too radical."

If to claim that the workers have a right to demand an increase in wages whenever the cost of living goes up is "too radical" – if to maintain that the worker has a right to improve his condition is "too radical" – then we admit that the IWW is "too radical." If to declare that the workers have the right to organize and strive to obtain the full product of their toil is "too radical," then we admit that in this also the IWW is "too radical."

But perhaps these are not the reasons why many workers consider the IWW "too radical." Perhaps they have in mind its tactics. Well then, let us look at these tactics and see what they are.

The IWW maintains that the only way for the workers to extract from the boss an increase in wages, a lessening of hours or more respect for their rights is **the strike**. And in this the IWW differs but little, if at all, from all other labor unions. The right to strike is now recognized in all the nations that call themselves civilized, and has become for the workers a lawful weapon.

But there are some labor organizations whose leaders assume the authority to decide whether and when the workers shall go

on strike. These officials think the workers incapable of using the strike weapon intelligently. Members of these organizations may only obey, carry out the orders of their leaders.

The IWW takes the opposite position. It regards the workers as the only persons involved and, therefore, the only proper ones to decide questions arising in the struggles between labor and capital. When the workers in a shop organized under the IWW plan think that the time has come to demand an increase in wages or any other improvement in working conditions, they can make the demand without having to get the permission of the officers of the union.

On this point, then, the IWW differs from other unions. Is that, perhaps, one reason why the IWW is considered "too radical"? If to grant to the workers the right to settle their disputes with the boss themselves is a defect, then the IWW is proud to have this defect!

There is another point on which the IWW is distinguished from the other unions, and that is in the matter of contracts. Among the many defects of the other unions, the use of agreements between the workers and the boss stands out most prominently. When the workers in any trade succeed, by means of a strike or the threat of a strike, in forcing a concession from the boss, if they belong to one of the old-style unions, they are accustomed to sign a contract with the employer by which they bind themselves for two and even three years not to strike again for any cause – unless the employer himself first breaks the agreement.

And, although experience has shown in the clearest manner that such a system constitutes a veritable noose around the neck of the workers, nevertheless the officials of those unions continue to defend it with all their might. Even a new organization, which pretends to be "revolutionary," is now trying to slip it over on its protesting members.

The Amalgamated Textile Workers, in one of its official publications... in reply to a protest by some weavers of Lawrence, Mass., against the use of contracts, publishes an editorial in which it seeks to present the idea of the contract under a new cloak, in order to make it acceptable to the majority of its members who, either through the influence of IWW propaganda or because of their own experience, are opposed to this outworn and obnoxious device.

But the editor of *Il Tessitore Libero*, with incredible audacity, in order to make the idea more acceptable, claims that even the IWW is not opposed to this new form of contracts! And like a real politician, he juggles with terms, giving the name "contract" or "agreement" to what is neither one

nor the other, and then concluded in favor of a uniform collective contract for an entire industry which, even if it does remove some disadvantages, still is nonetheless a noose around the necks of the workers.

The attitude of the IWW on this point is very clear. The second paragraph of its Preamble states: "Between these two classes [the working class and the employing class] a struggle must go on until the workers of

75 years ago in the iww press

the world organize as a class, take possession of the machinery of production and abolish the wage system." Therefore, between employer and employee, no contract or agreement, no amicable truce. The concessions wrung from the employers must be regarded by the workers as spoils of war, without any obligation of gratitude. After these partial victories, workers must never disarm; these periods of relative peace must be merely periods of preparation for fresh battles. The contract between employer and employee weakens the class feeling of the worker, disarms him and puts him in a helpless position where he is unable to fulfill his duties toward the other workers.

Is it, perhaps, this clear-cut, frank and uncompromising stand of the IWW on the question of contracts which frightens the timid worker and makes him exclaim that the IWW is "too radical"?

But we must bear in mind that the effective weapons of combat are determined for us by economic and social conditions outside our control and that, therefore, our tactics are forced upon us by necessity and by the conditions of the struggle. It is not we who choose to give to the class struggle its violent and tragic character. We wish that the working class might advance peacefully along the road to its emancipation. It is not our fault if, at every step, there rises an obstacle which cannot be removed except by force and sacrifice.

The charge that the IWW is "too radical" is simply absurd, because the methods and principles of the IWW are merely the fruit of the experience of many years of struggle and the inevitable result of the development and the present decay of capitalist society.

Workers, do not let yourselves be scared by that stupid phrase, "too radical." It is the up-to-date politicians who have given it currency in order to turn you aside from the straight road and lead you into the blind alleys of their crooked schemes. They are forging new chains for the working class in

order to prolong its subjection. See to it that their efforts fail. Line up in the Industrial Workers of the World, which, in spite of the most terrible persecution, is today stronger than ever, and which has never lowered its banner or compromised with its principles.

translated from the Italian and published in Solidarity March 20, 1920.

Note that in response to the constraints of US labor law and other forces, the IWW now permits job branches to sign agreements with employers provided that they do not provide for a checkoff of union dues or obligate IWW members "to do work that would aid in breaking any strike."

To the Workers of Butte!

You have built Butte. You miners have dug the ore and laid the foundations for the city. You have created the great fortunes of the copper magnates – but what have YOU GOT?

Where are your palatial mansions; your fine touring cars; your ease; your ... unbounded wealth that can buy up a United States Government to do your bidding?

You have poverty, want, a miserable hovel, a slave's portion in the greatest land of plenty. America is rich. There is abundance for all. No need for poverty, want or fear of want. If there is poverty it is not because our labor does not create an abundance, but because we do not control our product...

Mother Earth is good to the workers; it is the plundering class who artificially create these conditions and profit by the wage system. They, by ownership of the land and machinery of production, have obtained abundance, super abundance – for the few...

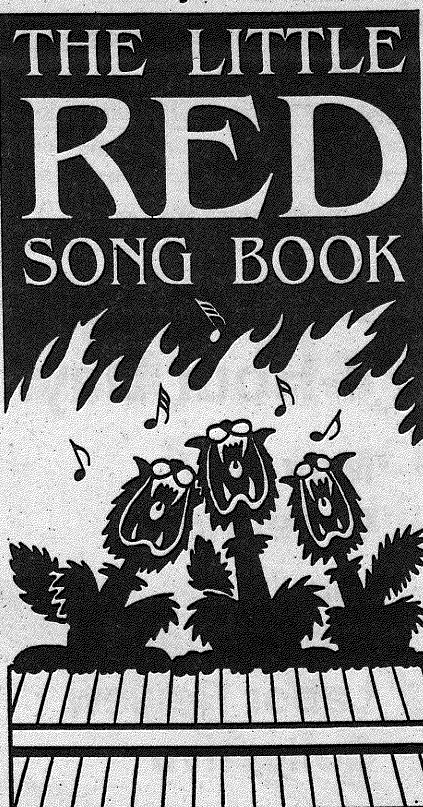
Without organization to control production we workers are powerless. The control of production carries with it control of government. The power to start and stop industry is the source of all power in organized society...

The IWW says we must form an organization of workers to own and control production. That is why the industrial barons fight us. We are challenging their control of industry... If ownership and control of the land and machinery of production is so good for the few, why not, by making the land and machinery common property, get the benefits for those who work? That is the goal of the IWW.

Miners and other workers of Butte, remember that whatever you gain temporarily is only a step toward the ultimate goal of Industrial Democracy... Industrial Organization is the way to get this. Old Mother Earth is rich, and through co-operation of all workers we can get her abundant treasures.

Solidarity, May 1 1921

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and

TOILET PRODUCTIONS

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"Ven Der Katz Schloft,
Tantsen Der Meiz!"

Race & Class in Britain

The Guardian in Britain ran a few articles over the week beginning March 20 on race. Being a liberal paper it steered away from the sort of criticism that we as Wobblies have of capitalism and its effect on "racial minorities." However the articles contained information showing the depth of racism inherent in capitalist Britain.

Black people have been in Britain for many hundreds of years, the first probably appeared with the Romans over 2,000 years ago. Roman occupation lasted for some four hundred years and black faces must have been reasonably common in Roman cities such as Londinium. They were most probably the slaves of rich white Romans (nothing seems to change) and there does seem to be some evidence that a few black people were left behind when the Romans fled in the fifth century. It is more than likely they were slaughtered by the Britons or the barbarians because of their association with Roman imperialism.

The establishment of black communities in Britain itself took place during the days when Britain began exporting slaves from Africa to the Americas and the West Indies. The rich white settlers needed cheap (or free) labour and to them the non-Christian blacks of Africa must have appeared as if they had been put on earth by the christian god precisely for that purpose!

Most of the slaves were shipped to Africa via England. At the time the major ports for the trade were Bristol and Liverpool and there is substantial evidence that some slaves and their descendants settled in the port areas of the cities after being "granted" their freedom. Working-class black people have been in Britain since the sixteenth century. The association between black people and the ports runs fairly deep with many ports having black communities. The

dock side area, being the poorest, was often the place where black workers were ghettoised.

Details of race riots are scanty but certainly in 1919 there was a riot in Newport, South Wales, details of which were hushed up by the authorities. Throughout the depression, however, fascists and nazis sought to blame "non-English" people such as blacks and Jews for the ills of capitalism.

While the left in Britain in all its shades was opposed to fascism, opposition to racism was seldom expressed. Many left-wingers were ambivalent to racism and the likes of Ben Tillett, a dockers leader, and Tom Mann, both involved in the syndicalist movement before world war one, were opposed to immigration.

Not all was bleak, however, and the miners communities of South Wales appeared to welcome immigrants with open arms regardless of their origin. South Wales was an area of political turmoil throughout most of this century, had a very international outlook, and a solid working class from different communities.

Real black immigration took place in the early fifties. Because of the war much of British capitalism was rebuilt and re-equipped following the devastation of bombing. Demand for labour was very high and unemployment almost non-existent. Because of the labour shortages British firms and the government actively sought black recruits from the Caribbean to fill the jobs white workers would not do. These were by and large low-status, low-skilled jobs in an effectively segregated labour market. Many areas of London in particular saw white workers moved out en masse to the suburbs, while black immigrants took their place in the rather squalid conditions of areas like Brixton. To many whites it appeared like



they had lost their homes and their communities to house black people, who might also be after their jobs. The seeds of racial tension were sown by the state, in what in retrospect might have been deliberate policy.

The attitude of the labour movement during the fifties was very poor. In cities like Birmingham and its satellite towns, white workers went on strike against the employment of black labour. A similar situation arose in Smithfield Meat Market in London where porters struck for the same reason. White workers felt they had a lot to fear and they were certainly not helped by the Labour Party which brought in the first immigration laws. Ironically it was a struggle for them to get the laws through Parliament because many conservatives thought it should be the right of any citizen of the (former) Empire to reside in the same country as the Queen!

In the 1950s young whites sometimes attacked blacks, but in 1958 the reviving Nazi organisations persuaded gangs of teddy boys to attack black communities in West London. They got a nasty shock; rather than sit back and take it as they had done in previous years the black workers fought back. Streets organised self-defence teams who effectively drove the nazis and the racists out. The black community announced that it was here to stay and would take no shit from anyone!

Throughout the sixties and seventies many white people agreed (most grudgingly) that black people were here to stay and had to be accepted. The same period was marked by the slow decline in the effectiveness of British capitalism in the face of growing multinational competition and rising unemployment. The screws were turned tighter on immigration and nationality and immigration declined appreciably. Nazi organisations such as the National Front, the British Movement and the League of Saint George became very well organised, mounted many demonstrations and attacks on black communities and individuals, and pushed the political agenda to the right.

The economic front, however, saw black and white workers in transport, health and manufacturing standing side by side against the boss (and often winning). As usual there were a few exceptions to this and some occasions where union local leaders turned white workers against their non-white colleagues. Accounts of some of these incidents will be found in a soon to be reissued IWW pamphlet "Unions and Racism."

The late seventies saw workers fight back against organised fascism with black workers taking a big lead in destroying a National Front march through South London in 1977, the riot which ensued saw the police in full flight and the 5,000 odd nazis scattered and retreating badly mauled. Their set piece demonstrations were never the same again.

Black resistance was not solely against the fascists. Organised racism was best expressed in the actions of the police. Police

action in the 1980s led to bloody uprisings led by the black community in Bristol, South London and Birmingham. Only after the uprisings did the state take the issue of unemployment among blacks and social deprivation seriously. Rebuilding and employment projects were begun and things "improved." Without the powder keg of riot and rebellion, however, the state and capital have resorted to their old ways. By 1993 the unemployment rate among blacks was 25 percent, as against 9 percent for whites. In 1992 there were more blacks in prisons than in universities.

What of the solution? Many liberals, and indeed many on the left, believe the solution lies in establishing a black middle class, the lack of which the *Guardian* said in the late eighties led to a "tragic...lack of leadership". Most of the press lauds the fact that in 1991 25 percent of black workers were employed in management and professional jobs and there had been a 75 percent growth in the number of black politicians. This has not stopped the number of racial attacks which increased by 75 percent between 1988 and 1992.

The black community is very diverse in Britain and the efforts to incorporate black people into an essentially racist state set-up are doomed to failure. Many on the right are calling for even stricter immigration controls than at present and even those fleeing repression and seeking asylum are locked up in prison.

To most organisations on the left black people are like cannon fodder. Just over a year ago the Panther Party (UK) split after people became disenchanted and angry with the trotskyist leadership of the organisation which was appointed by the Militant Labour Party. The Independent Panther Party has come into being and expresses many ideas which would strike a chord with Wobblies. In the anti-fascist movement confrontation rather than demonstration is practiced by Anti Fascist Action (AFA), this has much more support in the black community than passivity. The anti-racist movement as a whole is hopelessly split with the very middle class elements supported by the *Guardian* fighting for leadership positions in organisations which have imploded.

There is a place for a vibrant IWW supporting but NOT leading black workers forward, helping black workers to get organised where they work, or on the dole queue where they don't.

There is a place for an IWW to be educating prejudiced workers about the need for white and black workers to realise they have a common enemy - capitalism.

There is a place for the IWW to be there exposing the role of the racist system in keeping workers apart, in running a segregated labour market, in promoting division.

Finally there is a place for the IWW to organise workers to take control of the means of production, destroy the oppressive system and achieve universal emancipation.

May Day Greetings from the Southeast Michigan GMB



MAY DAY GREETING FROM HAYWOOD, MAY 1 1920

Greetings to men, women and children! May the dawn of this May Day awaken in your breasts a love for freedom. May your thoughts be tempted with justice to all. May the spirit of Solidarity enthuse you with the determination to open the doors of all prisoners, that your fellow workers may again walk forth in the sunlight of liberty. May you, in truth, hammer the instruments of torture and murder into tools of useful production. May the forces of any manner of circumstances never again pit you in war against your neighbor and fellow worker.

With the marvelous inventions and machinery, the world has become small, too small for longer need of government under meddling, murderous Kaisers, maddened Kings, or besotted, rotten politicians.

May the soil that is enriched with the blood and bodies of millions of your sons, your fathers, your brothers, that is watered with the tears of countless widows and orphans, now become the lands, the homes of the peoples, who have suffered for democracy.

May the bounteous crops that have been sowed in anguish and sorrow be harvested in peace and comfort.

Yours for Industrial Freedom

WILLIAM D. HAYWOOD

Southeast Michigan General Membership Branch - IWW
103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197 • 313/483-3548

Guatemalan Unionist Murdered

Alexander Yovany Gomez Virula, a member of UNSITRAGUA, the Union of Guatemalan Workers, was abducted on March 13. His severely beaten body was found in a ravine in Zone 18 of Guatemala City on March 19.

Gomez was on his way home from the union office when he was abducted. His murder represents a clear escalation in the repression against workers in the textile assembly ("maquila") sector. While eight UNSITRAGUA members have been assassinated since the middle of last year, Gomez is the first victim from the maquila sector.

Alexander Gomez, 24, was apparently beaten to death. The emergency team that recovered the body also reported seeing several bullet wounds. According to preliminary forensic evidence, he had been killed approximately four days earlier, indicating that he was held for two days.

Immediately following his disappearance efforts were made to secure the intervention of government authorities in the case. On two occasions union representatives tried to meet with the Minister of the Interior (Ministro de Gobernacion), but received no response. No police detectives were sent to the place where the body was recovered. Family members asked the police to search for Gomez, but were told that they would have to supply their own vehicle to carry out the search. UNSITRAGUA says "the lack of a quick response to this case, and many others, indicates negligence by the government authorities as well as complicity with paramilitary groups...."

Alexander Gomez was financial secretary of the R.C.A. Workers Union (Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Empresa R.C.A.). R.C.A. is a Korean-owned "maquiladora," or assembly factory, that assembles clothing. The owners had hired armed men to intimidate the workers on previous occasions. Vehicles with polarized windows and without license plates have been driving

around the community since the murder.

In August 1994 the R.C.A. factory abruptly closed down, in violation of an agreement with the Labor Ministry to keep the factory open. The workers believe the owners carried out the closure in order to destroy the union, and they occupied the factory in protest. They also charged that the owners had not complied with their legal responsibilities to the workers in the event of such a closure. The occupiers were sub-

and by threats from anonymous callers who insisted that Guzmán's husband resign from the union.

The Lunafil thread factory has been the site of one of the most bitter labor struggles in Guatemalan history. After rejecting management's demand that the workweek be lengthened to 48 hours and that all workers put in mandatory 12-hour days on week-ends, the workers carried out an occupation of the factory for 410 days, in 1987-1988, to



sequently evicted. Alexander Gomez had been active in the effort to get R.C.A.'s owners to pay salaries owed to the workers when the factory shut down.

Two weeks prior to Gomez's abduction and murder another disturbing incident took place. On February 28, 1995 Debora Guzmán Chupen, 23, a trade union leader at the clothing maquiladora L y L Modas, in Amatitlán, Guatemala, was abducted. Unlike Gomez, she was released a day later on March 1. During her abduction she was threatened with death. She is the wife of Felix González, a trade union leader at the now-closed thread factory, Lunafil, where 200 workers lost their jobs in 1994.

In subsequent days harassment continued by heavily armed men who drove past the Lunafil factory, and fired shots in the air

prevent the destruction of their union.

Please write the Guatemalan authorities denouncing the murder of Alexander Gomez and the inadequate response by the authorities to requests for prompt investigations; asking for guarantees for the safety of other workers from the R.C.A. factory in Guatemala City; and sharing your concern about the rights of unionists in Guatemala with US policy makers. Messages can be sent to: El Presidente de la Republica, Ramiro de Leon Carpio, Palacio Nacional, Guatemala City, Guatemala. FAX: 011-502-2-519-702; Ministro de Gobernacion, Carlos Enrique Reynoso Gil, Palacio Nacional, Guatemala City, Guatemala FAX: 011-502-2-515368; Ambassador Edmund Mulet, Embassy of Guatemala, 2220 R St. NW, Washington, DC 20008. FAX: 202-745-1908 Telephone: 202-745-4952

Guatemala's duty-free trade benefits with the United States have been under review since August 1992 because of lack of progress on worker rights. Guatemala is trying to have the review process ended, claiming the human rights situation has improved. The Guatemalan labor movement is strongly opposed to ending the review, which gives US supporters leverage for pressuring the government to respect labor rights in Guatemala. They ask that letters calling for pressure on Guatemala to respect workers' rights go to: President Bill Clinton, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, 202-456-1111, e-mail: President@whitehouse.gov; and GSP Inter-agency Subcommittee, Office of the US Trade Representative, 600 17th Street NW Rm. 513, Washington, DC 20506.

Send Copies and Messages of Solidarity to: Union Sindical de Trabajadores de Guatemala, 11 Calle 8-14, Zona 1, Oficina 34, Tercer Nivel, Guatemala City, Guatemala Fax: 011-502-2-514156

Teachers Fired

The Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights (CENIDH) has asked for messages to protest the firing of teacher union leaders in Jinotega and Estili. In order to pay the interest on debt arrears dating back to the Somoza dictatorship, Nicaragua is cutting spending on education, health, and agricultural support to the extent that basic public services are virtually nonexistent. Parents must pay for each of their children to attend school, and if they can't, the children stay home. As a result, 25% of school age children are unable to attend school.

IMF and World Bank conditions against pay raises mean that teacher's salaries fall farther and farther behind the cost of living. The basic food basket, which is a measure of essential food and items such as cooking oil, that a family needs to survive, is now priced at 1,100 cordobas (approx. \$157) a month. Elementary school teachers make an average of 400 cordobas (approx. \$57) per month.

Teachers in the Departments of Jinotega and Estili struck for higher wages in November 1994, which is near the end of the Nicaraguan school year. After negotiations, they agreed to return to the classroom to give final exams so that students would not be deprived of credit for the work they had done. In exchange, the Ministry of Education guaranteed there would be no reprisals or firings. However, in December, after the examinations, 23 teachers, who just happened to be the leaders of the teachers unions in the two departments, were fired.

The new school year is about to begin and the Department of Education has warned that if there any strikers in support of the fired teachers union leaders will be fired.

Please send faxes to President Violeta Chamorro (011-505-2-287911) and Education Minister Humberto Belli (011-505-2-651595) demanding the return of the fired teachers to their positions without reprisals; and that the government respect the human, labor and union rights of the teachers of Nicaragua, improving their salaries so that they will be able to feed their families.

Bangladeshi Workers Massacred

On Feb. 13 unions representing jute and textile workers in Bangladesh began a three-day strike to demand an end to the privatization and dismantling of the jute industry begun at the behest of the International Monetary Fund and the International Development Agency. They also demand that the government honor its agreement to raise the minimum monthly wage to US\$23.

The government responded to the strike with violent repression, killing four workers and injuring 300 others in its first two days. In response, several union federations called a one-day nationwide general strike on February 15. The strike paralyzed the entire country, and drew tens of thousands of workers to a rally in Dhaka condemning the police violence and demanding that the government grant the workers' demands.

The government responded with more violence, killing four more workers and injuring hundreds. Some 120 workers and strike leaders remain in jail.

The February strikes followed a three-day strike by 500,000 jute and textile workers on Jan. 21-24, during which a worker at the Kakurghat Jute mill was killed.

The Bangladesh Jatiya Sramkik (National Workers') Federation is asking unions, human rights, and environmental organizations and supporters to send messages of support to help boost the morale of the jute and textile workers, and to bring pressure on the government to halt the police violence, release the detained strikers, and meet the workers' demands. Their address is 2 Hatkhola Road, Dhaka-1203, Bangladesh (fax: 880-2-831917)

Rubber Tappers Face Gunmen

The National Council of Rubber Tappers continues to face violence in response to its campaign for fair treatment. Powerful landowners are seizing forest land traditionally owned by the rubber tappers and clearing it for cattle raising, selling the trees to logging interests. The landowners, well-connected to powerful politicians, hire gunmen to deter any attempts to reclaim stolen land. In 1988 rubber tappers leader Chico Mendes was murdered, other activists have been shot several times.

Landowners claim they need gunmen to protect themselves from the rubber tappers, and have built fences and installed security systems around "their" properties, but the real reason for the gunmen is to get more land.

Brazil has already lost 12 percent of its rainforests through massive agricultural and industrial schemes, construction of highways, clearance for cattle ranching and mining. Yet the rubber tappers receive no help in modernizing their industry or to compensate for the loss of the forests they depend upon. Instead of developing a domestic resource which grows naturally, the government imports rubber from Malaysia.

[Gunmen also continue to murder scores of homeless children on the streets of Rio de Janeiro each year. Shopowners claim the youngsters annoy customers by begging, and grow up to become criminals.]

The Native Forests Network asks that letters be sent to President Fernando Henrique Cardoso (Palacio do Planalto, Praca dos Tres Poderes, 70150 Brasilia DF, Brazil) expressing your concerns.

Match Factory Workers

In December it looked like the worker/owners of the Managua match factory, La Fosforera, had won a victory. Workers own 50% of the stock in the factory which had been owned jointly by the dictator Anastasio Somoza and Pedro Ortega Macho. The factory had been nationalized by the Sandinista government but has been privatized by the Chamorro government in order to comply with World Bank and IMF conditions. Workers were sold 50% of the stock and Ortega Macho was made company president and given 27% of the stock.

Ortega Macho immediately tried to buy stock from the workers in order to gain a majority interest. When workers refused to sell he got permission from the Ministry of Labor to fire the officers of the two unions. Subsequently, he fired all 148 workers of the factory. The workers occupied the factory, and in response to their actions and

continued next page

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Joblessness...

conomic insecurity, and the human suffering inflicted on the unemployed," says ILO director Michel Hansenne.

The ILO insists that workers will ultimately benefit from the globalization of trade, but concedes that in the short run we are paying a heavy price. In order to avoid backlashes against transnational capital, the report calls on governments to commit themselves to the goal of full employment and greater global economic integration.

Still, it concedes, along with the benefits there are also "real costs of adjustment, especially in the short run." For example, it

Nicaragua: "Owners" Strike...

international solidarity, the Ministry of Labor rescinded its permission for the firings. The workers began preparing for a stockholders meeting at which it was expected that Ortega Macho would be removed as President of the company.

But, January 25, 1995, a judicial official decided in favor of Ortega Macho and he immediately dismissed again the union leaders the same day. The strange and dangerous legal theory of the General Inspector, was that workers who are also shareholders in a business, can not form a union because they have commercial interests in the enterprise.

On February 15, workers were violently removed from the factory by police; three workers were injured and five briefly detained.

Please fax President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro (Fax 011-505-2-287911); Minister of Labor Dr. Francisco Rosales (Fax 011-505-2-282103); and the General Director of the National Police, Cmdte. Fernando Caldera (Fax 011-505-2-71871); demanding they respect workers' rights to ownership, work, and union organization.

cites sub-Saharan Africa, where "economic stagnation or retrogression has led to a collapse of modern-sector employment, falling labor earnings, rising urban unemployment and a bloating of low-productivity informal-sector employment."

The ILO report urges African governments to ease policies (such as minimum wage laws, taxes, environmental legislation, etc.) that discourage foreign investment, and calls on Western governments to tie foreign aid programs to such "reforms" in order to reverse Africa's marginalization from the world economy.

And the report calls for enforcement of basic labor standards, not because workers have rights that employers should be compelled to respect, but because it "will help to defuse protectionist sentiments."

Global co-operation is indeed necessary if we are to solve the problems of unemployment, poverty and misery. If we continue down the current road of "competition" — the wage slaves in every part of the world desperately competing with each other to sell our labor at the cheapest rate and under the most abject conditions — we will surely drive ourselves and our fellow workers right onto the streets, where we can huddle in cardboard boxes and beg the passing employers for a few scraps of food to enable us to crawl to our jobs.

But if we co-operate — if we work together in solidarity — we can help our fellow workers around the world to win decent conditions for themselves, and thereby prevent the employing class from playing us off each against the other. Then we will be able to win shorter hours, better working conditions, etc. — and ultimately to wrest control of the factories, mines, offices, etc. from the expropriators who presently control it, and put them under workers' management.

The choice is ours.

Unionists against logging forests

Australian unionists are circulating a statement noting that "Protection of the environment is in workers' interests" and calling for a timber industry based on tree crops rather than logging old-growth forests. The statement notes that timber companies "have shown that they care about their profits, not timber workers' lives, wages and conditions, or job security. The state government, which has cut thousands of jobs, is whipping up hysteria over possible job losses to support their business mates. The federal government's attempts at 'compromise,' meanwhile, will leave many of the forests unprotected and job security in doubt."

The statement calls for an immediate end to logging in old-growth forests, establishment of a job security fund for redeployment and retraining expenses of workers in the timber industry, and the establishment of tree farms to meet future timber needs.

Two arrested after unions storm Gingrich office

Hundreds of union workers occupied the Marietta, GA, office of House Speaker Newt Gingrich for 40 minutes March 15, until police forced them from the building. Two protesters were arrested on charges of inciting a riot and obstructing an officer.

The Atlanta Labor Council organized the protest against the Georgia Republican's anti-labor position on a series of issues from the minimum wage to the striker replacement bill.

"We had 400 working people go out to Gingrich's office to say: Look, if you're determined to assault ... assault working people, you've got a fight on your hands ... You're looking to destroy our lives and our families, our jobs and our occupations. And,

we're not going to take that," said Council President Stewart Acuff.

"Newt Gingrich was quoted six weeks ago ... saying the most important reasons he was elected speaker was to stop the striker replacement bill — and therefore our right to strike — and to stop health-care reform.

"We ain't waiting two years for another election. If you're determined to rip our guts out, you're going to have a fight on our hands," he said.

Clinton NLRB Chair Gould Hits Labor

Clinton's recently appointed head of the NLRB, William B. Gould, has voted to protect property rights against low wages. The AFL-CIO, which previously lauded Gould as a "friend" of labor, now reports that Gould has joined the reactionary members of the NLRB.

The three-member majority — Gould and NLRB members James Stephens and Charles Cohen — cited the U.S. Supreme Court's 1992 ruling in *Lechmere Inc. vs. NLRB*, which curtailed non-employee organizing on private property. Under *Lechmere*, union organizers have no right to access unless there are no other reasonable alternative means of access.

The new ruling stems from a dispute between the Carpenters union and Pennsylvania builder Leslie Homes over the use of non-union labor on a condominium project. Although UBC members worked on the first 50 units through a subcontractor, Leslie then began employing non-union carpenters directly and failed to pay the prevailing wage.

In April 1990, UBC picketers stood in front of a model condominium passing out handbills complaining that some workers were receiving lower wages than the area standards for such labor. The picketers left after the company threatened their arrest.

A second case, *Makro Inc.*, grew out of Food and Commercial Workers' attempts to picket a non-union retail grocery at an Ohio shopping mall. On opening day of the store, members of UFCW Local 88 picketed the store, calling for patrons to stay away "for the American standard of living." Makro and the mall owners obtained a court order moving the pickets to the mall parking lot. The NLRB said this was a reasonable alternative."

Gould also backed a \$52 million fine against the UMWA that would have bankrupted the union and he spoke in on Feb. 6 to a union busting management group in San Francisco at the union boycotted Ritz-Carlton Hotel in San Francisco. So much for Clinton's pro labor appointees.

Boycott Firestone, Pirelli, Armstrong

The United Rubber Workers union is asking that new car buyers make sure Bridgestone, Firestone, Pirelli, and Armstrong tires are not sold with the car. The URW suggests that a supplemental sales agreement be attached to documents the dealer has the buyer sign. This agreement should say that only URW-approved tires should be on the car and that if the above-mentioned tires are on the car, they will be removed at dealer cost.

(Of course, you should be sure not to buy these scabby tires to replace that flat, either. And if you know any auto workers, you might ask why union workers are installing scab tires on the products they manufacture.)

Staley Fight Needs Our Support

ment had ignored an internal safety audit conducted the year before.

Staley had initially been cited for \$1.2 million in fines, which the judge reduced to \$760,000 despite noting that "OSHA's proposed penalties are the equivalent of assessing \$75.00 in penalties from an individual earning \$50,000 per year. To be effective, a penalty must be a deterrent..."

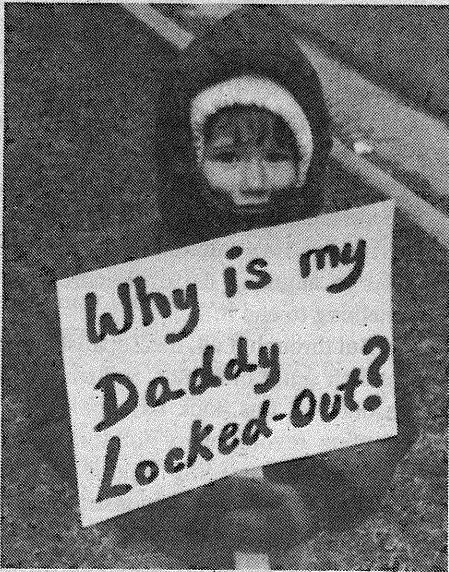
The judge's ruling documents repeated complaints by AIW/UPIU Local 7837 officials about unsafe conditions in the plant, including a tour with management officials in which the union pointed out various safety hazards. Despite the union's efforts, Staley officials ignored substantial safety hazards, endangering the lives of workers in the plant every day that they reported for work.

Local 7837 president David Watts said the decision "highlight Staley's complete disregard for its employees' rights and dignity. Staley's health and safety practices are no better than its labor relations practices."

Taking the Fight to London

Union and Decatur community representatives went to London January 26th for the Tate & Lyle shareholders annual meeting. Tate & Lyle bought Staley in 1988. Catholic priest Martin Mangan bought a share of Tate & Lyle stock so that he could speak at the stockholders meeting, presenting a petition signed by 400 US religious leaders calling on Tate & Lyle to end the lockout and resume negotiations. Union leaders told stockholders that promises made at the 1994 annual meeting to begin serious negotiations had not been honored.

Tate & Lyle officers told stockholders that they would not get involved in the dispute, preferring to leave it to local managers to handle. Representatives from several other unions representing Tate & Lyle workers in the U.S. and Britain attended the



meeting to show their solidarity with the locked-out Staley workers. (Of course, they might want to consider adopting some more effective means of showing solidarity, based on the ancient principle: "An Injury to One is An Injury to All." If Tate & Lyle was confronted with direct industrial action at all its unionized plants, it would have to reconsider its union-busting program in Decatur, or go out of business.)

On February 22nd, an open letter was presented to Tate & Lyle CEO Neil Shaw signed by over 150 British clergy calling for an end to the 22-month lockout. The Rev. Raymond Singh noted that while lockouts may be legal, "the negative impact of the lockout on family life and the Decatur community has deep ethical consequences ... after 20 months the hardships experienced by those affected does not square with any understanding of natural justice."

(Bulk quantities of the Pepsi and Coke leaflets are available from the UPIU Special Projects Dept., PO Box 1475, Nashville TN 37202, 615/834-8590)

As we go to press AFL-CIO president-for-life Lane Kirkland is scheduled to speak at a March 27th rally in Decatur, expressing the AFL's support "for working families in Decatur that are locked out or on strike."

"Not a Single Wheel Would Turn"

(From an article in the December 1994 issue of the *Decatur Free Press* by locked-out Staley worker Mike Griffin):

As I travel the highways as a Staley workers' "Road Warrior," organizing support for my locked-out local, I see struggles everywhere rising from the ashes of failed employee-involvement programs, from failed leadership in our international offices. The woes of PATCO continue to haunt labor leaders and are often whispered in the winds of discontent from rank-and-file unionists, local leaders, and even AFL-CIO staffers...

We have the key industries to shut America down and force labor reform and parity for working America. "Not a single wheel would turn."

What if workers didn't file a written grievance, but shut the machinery down and joined fellow workers at the site of the dispute? What if haulers would not haul struck goods or workers would not install them? What if workers shut an entire company down when the boss tried to lay off workers, increase hours, or move production? That is "solidarity." That is unionism!

A SPECIAL MAY DAY GREETINGS TO OUR FELLOW WORKERS FIGHTING IN DECATUR, ILLINOIS

**THANKS, AND KEEP FIGHTING!!
In Solidarity Bob & Jenn Madsen — SLC, UT**

Voices of Fire: The Zapatistas II

Voices of Fire: Communiqués and Interviews from the Zapatista National Army, edited by Ben Clarke and Clifton Ross. New Earth Publications (1921 Ashby Ave., Berkeley CA 94703 – add \$3 for postage for individual orders), \$7.95.

Early in February, representatives from the investment firms of Goldman Sachs and Merrill Lynch exhorted Mexican officials to wipe out the Zapatistas in order to restore investor confidence in the peso. Reading *Voices of Fire*, it is not hard to find the reasons for the financiers' anxiety.

The Zapatistas, named after revolutionary hero Emiliano Zapata, assassinated in 1919, burst on the international scene with the seizure of six cities in Chiapas, Mexico's poorest province, on New Year's Day 1994, and a set of demands calculated to make any devout capitalist tremble for his economic life.

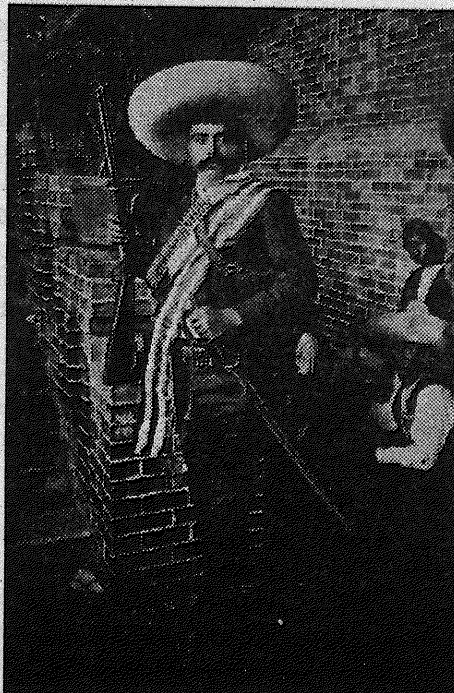
The looting of the country is to stop. NAFTA is to be repudiated. The great estates are to be broken up and given to farmers who will work them, as Article 27 of the Mexican Constitution had provided before President Salinas and his party "reformed" it. Pollution is to cease. Anyone who has paid 15 years rent is to be absolved from further payments, and no one's rent is to exceed 10% of their income.

The horrors grow worse and worse. Wages are to be just, and crop prices fair.

The people are to receive free medical care, even in remote villages. Schools are to be built and staffed, and education is to proceed beyond the third grade. Military hardware is to be returned for a refund, and the cash used to finance some of these programs. There is no end to the demands of these upstarts!

Editor Clarke starts off with a detailed chronicle of the history of abuse in Chiapas which has left the native people with .2 clinics and .3 hospital beds for each 10,000 inhabitants, and the choice of dying of misery or repression. Then he lets the revolutionaries speak for themselves, starting with a "tour" of Chiapas conducted by none other than the mysterious Subcomandante Marcos that lets us see how its people really live or, more precisely, struggle to survive.

Through all the documents that follow runs an acute sensitivity to the feelings of fellow Mexicans and the conventions of civilized society, reminiscent of our own Declaration of Independence. At other times, the language recalls the sentiments of our own Native Americans when they confronted greedy whites at peace conferences and treaty signings. Likewise, the decision-making methods these papers describe could easily be taken from reports of Cheyenne or Sioux Councils of the last century. Perhaps some of the better educated Zapatistas are familiar with the



Emiliano Zapata

speeches of chiefs like Seattle, Joseph and Sitting Bull, or it may simply be that Native American ways of thinking have not changed over the intervening time or distance.

Through all of these statements runs the primacy of land. To those of us who live in cities, this insistence may seem outmoded, a throwback to the agrarian society of the previous century. But most of Mexico is still an agrarian society, and, for its *campesinos*, access to land means survival. To the peasant, being pushed off his farm is the equivalent of a death sentence. To be without land is to be without hope.

In the United States, the Okies of the '30s could migrate across America in search of work, often enough in vain, but not in despair. For the indigenous peoples of Mexico, many of whom do not speak Spanish, leaving their homes leads only to the slums of the cities, where they will join their drunken, sick and broken brothers and sisters on the human scrap heap. As their proclamations show, the Zapatistas have found every avenue to peaceful change blocked and have taken up arms to die honorably, if need be, sooner than see their children starve and themselves perish of dysentery, cholera and alcoholism. As Subcomandante Marcos puts it, "Whoever gets involved in a community has to choose: either to augment the exploitation or do something to end it."

But through it all, the Zapatistas never lose their sense of humor, and some of the anecdotes in this book have potential for becoming revolutionary folklore. One of the Zapatistas, reading reports of police assaults on peaceful demonstrators, says they should be invited to come to Chiapas. The subcomandante points out the difficulties of bringing these people to the jungle. The guerrilla, after listening patiently, explains that he meant the police, not the demonstrators. "Tell them," he adds, "that, if they are real men, they should come fight us. See if it is the same thing to beat innocent, peaceful people as to fight us."

The translations are unusually fluent and a joy to read, despite a few unfortunate renderings. When the Zapatistas demand a "political trial" for some of the worst government criminals, it is clear from the context that they are not calling for a political trial in the English sense at all, but the true meaning of the demand is lost.

The book would undoubtedly be improved by reprinting a few of the documents in their original Spanish, so that readers who have facility in that language could appreciate these publications' style as well as their content. A glossary of terms like PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party, the political machine that rules Mexico) and "civil society" (a designation for the loosely organized

opposition to the PRI) would also help non-Mexican readers to keep their bearings.

Nonetheless, this book belongs on the shelf of anyone with a serious interest in what has happened and will continue to happen in Chiapas and throughout Mexico. As one communique sums up, "Chiapas will have no real resolution without solving the national problem of Mexico."

John Gorman

Book Reviews

A War on the Poor

America's Longest War: Rethinking Our Tragic Crusade Against Drugs, by Steven Duke and Albert Cross, Putnam Books, 1994.

Hundreds of billions of dollars have been squandered on the war on drugs, tens of thousands of people have been railroaded to jail, escalating drug prices have unleashed a new wave of violent crime, and our civil rights have been left bleeding on the field of battle to die a slow, painful death. But there is no evidence that drug use is going down.

The authors argue that the war on drugs is both a colossal failure and a giant mistake – that without the government crackdown, now-illegal drugs would constitute far less of a public menace than do the legal drugs of tobacco and alcohol (which already kill far more people than die from drug overdoses and drug-related crime). The book is targeted at a conservative, mainstream audience (complete with an endorsement from Milton Friedman), and it's relentless recitation of statistics and studies can be a bit plodding.

While it is clear, at least to your editor, that people would be better off avoiding drug dependency and instead confronting the social problems that make even the temporary illusion of escape so appealing, it is also clear that increasingly we are all victims in this "war on drugs." Perhaps this book will help convince some of the supporters to rethink their position.

Government Murder

American Ground Zero: The Secret Nuclear War, by Carole Gallagher. Random House, 1993.

This coffee-table size book offers a documentation of the effects of nuclear testing in the deserts of Utah. It combines scores of photographs (of victims poisoned by radiation, and of the countryside and communities that were devastated) with short interviews with survivors (some of whom died while the book was in preparation).

Many of these people participated in their own victimization, working on the nuclear test sites even as they observed the government's total disregard for human life. Many kept silent even as they came to realize that something was terribly wrong. And some continue to this day to hold that the government was justified (by the Cold War) in exposing them and their children to radioactive poisoning.

This is a harrowing book. It documents a history of government murder and deceit that should put any "patriot" to shame. Bakunin once noted that "reasons of state" were routinely invoked to justify the most brutal crimes imaginable. One doubts whether he could have imagined atrocity on this scale, but "our" government could not only imagine it – it proceeded to carry it out.

Ultimately, Gallagher shows, the US government had no more concern for the lives of its citizens then it had for our fellow workers in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. All were expendable "for reasons of state."

[JB]

Chomsky on Clinton

The Clinton Vision, by Noam Chomsky. CD 56 minutes. AK Press (POB 40682 San Francisco CA 94140-0682), \$12.98.

For those among you who have had the pleasure of hearing Noam Chomsky fire one of his critiques at the rule of capital, this CD will give you the opportunity to enjoy and learn once again. For those who haven't heard this anarcho-syndicalist Doctor Who of the Academy, here's your chance to listen to him as he blows the media smoke away from the Clinton Presidency, while he holds the mirror of logic to the face of lesser evil.

How does he do it?

Being a world renowned expert in the field of linguistics helps. But don't let that scare you. Chomsky is as easy to understand as a clear blue sky. He follows his usual method here. By taking quotes from the most "respectable" of sources – the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, U.N. statistical documents and Bill Clinton's own speeches – he is able to expose the smell of burnt human flesh underlying the cost-efficiency ethics of the ruling class chefs – in this case their Chief Executive Officer in the State apparatus.

So, what is the Clinton Vision?

In this CD Chomsky makes it stand up on its three hind legs – the globalization of capital, the replacement of bourgeois democracy with corporate totalitarianism, and the gulagization of unproductive (of profit) members of the proletariat.

The globalization of capital has and is being ratified in various international trade agreements: NAFTA, GATT and the Asian Pacific Agreement. Noam chooses to illustrate this by using Clinton's visit to the Boeing complex to sign the APA. According to the Clinton Vision, Boeing sets an example for the future of U.S. capital in the New World Order. Boeing, a company whose stockholders enjoy immense State subsidy in the form of research and development costs via the military, is that hybrid of current successful market competitiveness. Little did you know that when you hopped that jet to Newark, you were riding in a modified bomber design. The mingling of

the State and capital is the model of the Clinton Vision, whether it is Boeing, Cray Computer or the nuclear power industry. That this model of capital is being ratified in agreement after agreement on a world scale shows that other ruling classes realize the same vision. Needless to say, Chomsky makes it clear that their interests and ours are not the same.

Linked to this notion for the need to ratify corporate/State capital's dominion over the world market by "agreement" is the corollary need to distance control over political decision making from the unwashed masses. As if the distance were not already great enough, agreements like NAFTA, the APA and so on tend to have clauses embedded in them which prohibit national entities from passing laws which conflict with their "agreed" on positions. Thus the governing model of the Clinton Vision is more and more closely aligned with the totalitarian operating structure of the modern corporation and less and less with the republican form of government initiated by the American revolutionaries of the 18th Century.

Connected to both the international agreements and the increasing attraction of the corporate power pyramid as a means of political rule, is the answer to that age old capitalist question – "what to do with the unemployed?" The Clinton Crime Bill and the billion dollar prison construction plans are no accident of history. We're not rebuilding the infrastructure here; we're constructing the gulag of the future for those who, according to Chomsky, have no value to the privileged elites of the U.S.A. "Human beings have value only in so far as they contribute to profit making." Seems to be the prime directive of the modern bourgeois "Enterprise."

This lecture provides us with both a lesson in contemporary political economy and an example of how to cut through the crap of media mystification. The "Clinton Vision" demonstrates conclusively that relying on the lesser evil is not the solution. The hard truth is that we can only depend on ourselves, organized as One Big Union.

Mike Ballard

from the desk of...

Havally, the army killed FW Gould in the Philippines a few years later.) Well, latest martyr anyway. Let's hope he was the last. Probably not, as Wobblies tend to go where the oppression is. Fellow Worker Frank Terrugi is depicted as the friend of the "disappeared" American sought by Jack Lemmon in the Costa Gavras film "Missing."

Jara was murdered as he led the prisoners in singing of liberation. Then the singers were machine gunned. As I watched the film I thought of our image as the "singing union" and imagined our Fellow Worker lifting his voice stridently in unison with his fellow victims. And I was once again very proud to be a Wobbly, proud to be associated with those who will give their lives for freedom and justice... and with those who can tell their stories so well.

Fred Chase, GST

SURVEILLANCE SPECIAL
— While They Last —

Break-ins, Death Threats & the FBI: The Covert War Against the Central America Movement.

FBI attempts to discredit and disrupt opponents of U.S. intervention. \$12

War At Home: Covert Action Against U.S. Activists & What We Can Do About It. by Brian Glick \$5

Agents of Repression: The FBI's Secret Wars Against the Black Panther Party and the American Indian Movement. by Ward Churchill and Jim Vander Wall. \$15

IWW Buttons

Fire Your Boss! \$1 each

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IWW Globe surrounded by motto: "Labor is Entitled to All it Creates." Black & Red, \$1.50. This button available from IWW headquarters only (103 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti MI 48197).

Video Documentary

Older = Bolder: Anarchist Elders, by Zimya Toms-Trend

28-minute video features veteran Wobblies reflecting on their struggles and ideas. VHS, \$32.50 post-paid

Books for Rebel Workers

Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology. edited by Joyce Kornbluh.

Collection of articles, cartoons, songs & poetry from the IWW press. \$22

Sabotage in the American Workplace. edited by Martin Sprouse.

Tales of resistance on the shop-floor to speed-ups, bum pay and the drudgery of wage slavery. \$12

Hard-Pressed in the Heartland. by Peter Rachleff

Rachleff participated in the hard-fought struggle of P-9 against the Hormel Company and the UFCW.

Music/Song

Good News. Sweet Honey in the Rock

All Used Up. Utah Phillips

Smash the State and Have a Nice Day. Citizens Band

Don't Mourn, Organize! Songs of Joe Hill by various artists

Rebel Voices. Songs of the IWW sung by IU 630 Wobs

I Have Seen Freedom. Si Kahn

We Have Fed You All for 1,000 Years. Utah Phillips.

As Seen on No TV. Chris Chandler

It Takes A Lot of People. Tribute to Woody Guthrie by Larry Long & children

A World to Win. Tom Juravich

Greenfire. Dakota Sid and Travers Clifford

Food Phone Gas Lodging. Charlie King

Justice. Toshi Reagon

Out of Darkness. Tom Juravich

Look to the Left. Anne Feeney
All Cassettes: \$9 each

The Hormel workers' struggle suggests the possibility for the rebirth of a militant, rank & file, community-based union. \$12

One Big Union. by IWW.

The basic introduction to the structure and methods of the Industrial Workers of the World. \$2

Rise and Repression of Radical Labor. by Daniel Fusfeld.

A concise history of the U.S. movement from the 1877 strike wave through the 1918 red scare trials, deportations and murders. \$5

Crystal Gazing the Amber Fluid. by Carlos Cortez.

Long-time IWW artist Cortez's poetic take on life in the late 20th century. \$4

Solidarity Unionism.

by Staughton Lynd.
Critical reading for all who care about the future of the labor movement. Lynd offers no easy answers, rather a faith in working people and an argument that building solidarity today means nurturing resistance in the face of corporate power. \$7

Mask of Democracy: Labor Suppression in Mexico. by Dan LaBotz.

Recent rank & file insurgencies, maquiladoras and NAFTA all get attention in this timely book. The need for international labor solidarity is inescapable. \$14

Labor Law for the Rank & Filer. by Staughton Lynd.

Revised and updated for the 1990s. A classic self-help manual. The subtitle says it all: "building solidarity while staying clear of the law." \$7

Progress Without People: In Defense of Luddism. by David F. Noble.

Technology is a political question, and too often workers and others are excluded from the decisions. A detailed analysis of technology's effects and working-class responses. \$15

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A history of U.S. workers' struggle from workers' point of view. Argues that class upsurges are based in everyday live and rank & file initiative. \$15

Memoirs of a Wobbly.

by Henry McGuckin.
The memoirs of a rambling Wobbly organizer of the 1910s. How they hoboed, organized and lived. Free speech fights and "fanning the flames of discontent." \$5

Solidarity Forever—An oral history of the IWW. Steward Bird, Dan

Georgakas & Deborah Shaffer, eds.
A compilation of interviews with former and veteran Wobblies. Badly transcribed, but interesting reading. \$11

Break Their Haughty Power. by Eugene Nelson.

Fictionalized biography of Joe Murphy, who was an IWW member between 1919 and 1924. \$12

Fellow Worker: The Life of Fred Thompson. Compiled by D. Roediger.
Autobiographical reflections and philosophy from a veteran Wobbly who bridged the generations. \$10

Workers of the World Undermined. by Beth Sims.

Exposes AFL-CIA's role in supporting U.S. foreign policy while undermining international solidarity. \$9

Mad in the USA.

by Gary Huck & Mike Konopacki.
Their third collection of cartoons. "These unbeheldden bozos are the best class-warrior cartoonists of our time." \$12

Working the Waterfront. by Gilbert Mers.

Wobbly Longshoreman Gilbert Mers tells the story of his 42 years on the Texas waterfront as a rank and file radical. Workers' history as it should be told. Hardcover: \$20

The General Strike.

by Ralph Chaplin.
Chaplin's musical version of the IWW Preamble has the line "without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn." He expands that idea in this 1933 essay. \$2

Food Not Bombs.

Subversive (veggie) recipes and how-to information for feeding the hungry in this society where food is a privilege. \$9

Power! by MacShane, Plaut & Ward.

A history of black workers and their unions in South Africa, following their struggle to improve everyday life and transform the system through the mid 1980s. \$8

Juice is Stranger than Friction. by T-Bone Slim.

Funny and irreverent, Slim's popular writings for the *Industrial Worker* of the 20s and 30s are collected here for the first time. \$8

The American Labor Movement:

A New Beginning. by Sam Dolgoff.
A veteran IWW organizer traces the history of labor militance and offers his vision for building a new, radical, rank-and-file labor movement. \$5

The Cointelpro Papers: Documents from the FBI's Secret Wars Against Dissent in the U.S. by Ward Churchill & Jim Vander Wall. \$15

Available from
IWW Branches

T-SHIRTS

**Sabo-Cat, Wobbly Globe
General Strike**

\$12 each, 100% cotton. State size (S, M, L, XL) & color (red or white)
San Francisco Branch, PO Box 40485, SF CA 94140.

IWW Globe Black & red, M, L or XL. 50/50, \$14. Denver/Boulder Group, 2412 E Colfax, Denver CO 80206

Sab-Cat \$8 each. Lehigh Valley Branch, PO Box 4133, Bethlehem PA 18018.

Canadian Little Red Songbook 40 songs by Arlene Mantle, Rick Fielding, Faith Nolan, Len Wallace & others, with music & chords. \$5. Toronto IWW Group, c/o J. Dymny, 11 Andrews Ave., Toronto ONT M6J 1S2

BOOKS

Workers Guide to Direct Action \$2.95. **Workers**

Guide to Organizing \$2.95. Lehigh Valley Branch, Box 4133, Bethlehem PA 18018. Ask for complete catalog

Workers Guide to Direct Action 75 cents. **Collective**

Bargaining Manual \$2.50. New York Branch, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick NY 13348

Introduction to the U.S.: An Autonomist Political

History by Noel Ignatiev. \$3, Denver/Boulder Group

Anarchism and the Black Revolution by Lorenzo

Kom'boa Ervin. \$7. **Shopfloor Struggles of American Workers** by Martin Glaberman 50 cents. Ask for catalogue. Philadelphia GMB, 4722 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia PA 19143

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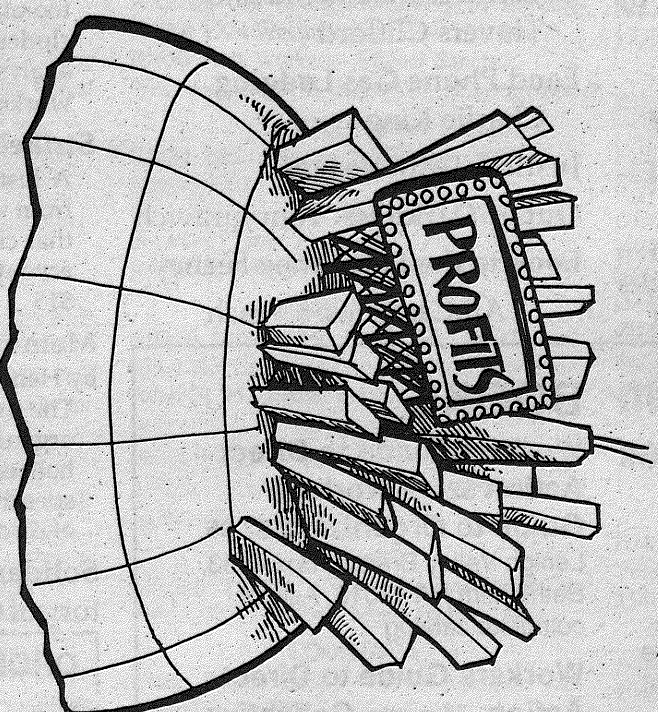


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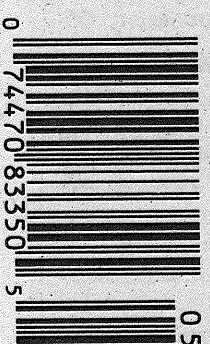
Industrial Worker

“Wobble”
Heels Idaho
Contractor
May Day

Still Strong
at AE Staley
Class & Race
in Britain
Ship Afire
Reflections
on the IWW



FALLOUT FROM THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMY!



Labor Fakery & Other Oddness

Less Popular Than Congress!

When a recent Gallup poll asked Americans “Do you approve of unions?” 60 percent said Yes, 30% No. But another Gallup poll asked people to “rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in the following fields as ‘very high’ or as ‘high’” (essentially an approval rating). The results? Clergy 55%, College Teachers: 51, Journalists: 30, Business Executives: 25, Senators: 24, Congressmen: 20, Labor Union Leaders: 15.

Thus labor leaders are less popular than business executives, congressmen and sky pilots!

While unions continue to enjoy substantial support (remember that only about 15 percent of US workers belong to unions – and some of those “unions” are pretty sorry affairs), their leaders have much less support. Given the dismal results of recent decades, who’s to say the “public” is wrong? Interestingly enough, Congress claims a public mandate for destroying the social safety net, yet the poll above indicates that congressmen have only a little bit more of a reputation that do the much-criticized union leaders.

Montana Registers Gays

As in many other states, it is illegal to be homosexual in Montana. And now, the Associated Press reports, the Montana legislature has approved a bill including homosexuality – like murder and rape – as one of the crimes for which a convicted person must register with local law enforcement for the rest of their lives. An attempt in the Senate to remove that provision failed on an 18-32 vote.

Sen. Al Bishop, R-Billings, one of the

mossexuals, said he considers homosexual acts as worse than many other crimes. “This type of action is even worse than a violent sexual act,” he said.

Unionists storm Gingrich

Hundreds of union workers occupied the Marietta, GA, office of House Speaker Newt Gingrich for 40 minutes March 15, until police forced them from the building.

Prison or Work?

Have you ever wondered which was better, life in prison or a full time job? You be the judge...

In prison they spend the majority of their time in a 8 x 10' cell. At work, I spend most of my time in a 6 x 8' pod.

In prison they get three meals a day. At work I only get a break for one meal and I have to pay for that one.

In prison you get time off for good behavior. At work I get rewarded for good behavior with more work.

At work I must wear an ID badge at all times. In prison they provide you with clothing with the ID conveniently sewn onto the clothes.

At work I must carry around a security card and unlock and open all the doors myself. In prison a guard locks and unlocks all the doors for me.

William Henkelman, Industrial Worker, April 27 1946



In prison I can fall asleep on the job and no serious consequences comes from my actions. At work if I fall asleep on the job I get put on the next RIF list.

In prison they ball and chain you when you go somewhere. At work you are just ball and chained.

Industrial Worker
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The IWW: Revolutionary Unionism

by Jeff Stein

The Industrial Workers of the World will celebrate its 90th anniversary this year. Whether it lives to be one hundred and beyond depends on its present membership. The central message of the IWW, as stated in the Preamble to the IWW Constitution, is still relevant. The capitalist system continues to exploit workers, who are responsible for the creation of all social wealth, and keeps most of this wealth in the hands of the parasitic employers. The only way to change this situation is for workers to unite and to take the management of their labor into their own hands in order to produce for social needs instead of for profit.

Good intentions, however, are not enough to keep a voluntary organization like the IWW going. New members must be recruited who are willing to carry the IWW message to the shopfloor. Strikes and job actions must be organized and won, to give workers confidence in their own strength and abilities. During the past few years the IWW has shown that it can make an impact for short periods at isolated workplaces. Ironically, given its "one big union" philosophy, what it has lacked has been a coordinated strategy to move beyond sporadic, one shop organizing drives towards building genuine industrial unions. Thus even when the IWW has successfully organized a workplace it has often been unable to build on that success. So the size of the IWW goes up and down depending on random events, an organizing opportunity here, a business closing there, as well as upon the general level of worker rebelliousness of the period.

As a small organization, we have little control over the level of worker rebellion. A return of the sort of rebel spirit of the 1960s and 1970s would be a shot in the arm for the IWW, as it would for most unions and radical organizations. Periods of protest, like periods of conservatism, come and go. We cannot predict when they will happen, nor can we wait and do nothing until better times. The revolutionary flame must be kept alive so that workers will be able to find us when they are ready. This means we must stay active, continue agitating, educating, and organizing as best we can. The IWW of tomorrow must be built within the shell of the present. A lethargic band of armchair unionists will not be capable of turning a

new generation of rebel workers into revolutionary unionists, even if these workers somehow manage to find us.

On the other hand, activism by itself, will not give birth to revolutionary industrial unions either. We must focus these efforts so that each organizing drive, each member recruited, leads to the next, until the entire operations of the same employer, the entire industry, and ultimately the entire

working class is organized into one big union. To do this we have to break our old bad habits, of organizing randomly, and instead organize on an industrial basis. As a first step to this, I recommend we adopt the syndicalist method of forming "industrial networks," or non-recognized unions. The affiliates of the syndicalist international, the IWA, have adopted this method of organizing with success in Spain and France. In

Spain the CNT has organized strikes in the Barcelona area. In France the CNT has dominated postal workers. In Sweden the syndicalist union not part of the official system has been effective at organizing workers among postal workers.

What makes industrial unionism more effective than the IWW's current organizing is that employer recognition of industrial union agreements are the end-all of union activity. Often they find themselves in the middle of the work, either because of union members in an unproductive place, or because a business employer-government-recognition agent. According to the scheme this leaves those with few options, basically the process of education towards a majority of fellow workers and demanding the IWW to win the employer and winning. An industrial network, or would only require that IWW a small group of union supporters form a core of worker resistance to direct action techniques to the employer to improve conditions, necessarily recognizing the sole bargaining authority. An industrial network would be in terms of its ability to maintain in the industry as a whole solidarity between groups separate workplaces before employer or in the same industry.

The difference between industrial works and conventional works can be compared to guerilla warfare. Like a guerilla, the IWW is too small when it comes to employers to duke it out alone. So we have to make strength by using surprise (strikes), mobility (union or between jobs in the same industry) to fade away into the background before the employer can mount an anti-union assault. Certainly this should be the ultimate aim where this is a real possibility. Industrial networks have to be able to establish a "liberal" terrain, establish a "liberal" able to defend it. The trick is this transition from one terrain to the other. If you try to move too soon, without building strength in the industry, it is easy for the employers to isolate your union shop and attack.

Some IWW members are beginning to adopt industrial method of organizing. A few IWW members who work as support staff at various educational institutions have begun working towards one big union in the education sector. They have published five educational industry newsletters. WOB. Plans are underway for an education industry meeting at the Assembly. They are encouraging members who work in education to be involved. The IWW education work can be reached by writing to 620 -IWW, 4043 N. Ravenswood, Chicago IL 60613.

There are other industrial sectors, where there are a lot of wobblies who could also be organized. The retail service sector where the union has had success in the past, which from a more industrial approach rank and file must begin to organize, and less like a bunch of agitators trying to organize but on their own jobs. Industrial unionism can give the IWW a future.

The IWW At 90 Reflections on our Future

This issue opens a series on the future of the IWW to which all IWW members are invited to contribute. We seek to present a variety of perspectives on how best to build the IWW in the coming decade, as we strive to realize our revolutionary vision of One Big Union. Arthur J. Miller is a former chairperson of the IWW's General Executive Board, coordinator of the IWW's Industrial Transportation Project, and the editor of *Bayou La Rose*. Carlos Murray is a former GEB member and is working to organize Health Service Workers IU 610. Dean Steede is a Wobbly computer programmer. Jennifer Madsen is Salt Lake City GMB delegate. Jeff Stein is a member of the Education Workers IU 620 Organizing Committee.



Organizing Within

by Jennifer Madsen

Many members of the IWW are two-carders (holding membership in two unions). It seems that a lot, if not most, rank-and-file members in the AFL-CIO affiliated unions are dissatisfied and fed up with the way they are used and sold out by the fat cats at the top of the unions.

Union officials have allowed 80% wage contracts, no-strike clauses, 12-hour rotating shifts, and turned a blind eye to violations of safety procedures. Their attitude is "be glad you have a job." Local unions end up standing alone in their struggles without the backing of their International, and many times without the support of other trades and unions.

By supporting rank-and-file struggles, whether it be strikes, lock-outs, or wobbles, IWW organizers can teach the "mainstream" members that the answers to many of their problems can be found in One Big Union. Members of the unions should be encouraged to fight back within their own locals, and take the power back from their leaders

of doom. Continue paying dues for their hiring halls and benefits, but join and adopt the ideals of the One Big Union so that eventually the labor unions that we know today will be unnecessary and non-existent.

Rank-and-file members believe in Solidarity. They do not need to be taught about unionism, they just need to be guided back to the basics and helped to understand that they are still being used and exploited by corporate greed. At the present, they are just having the blows softened by propaganda handed out by officials at the top.

When IWW organizers attend other union functions let workers know that the IWW is their roots, and is still organizing,

active, and continuing the fight. Urge fellow workers that belong to other unions to invite their brothers and sisters to any and all of the IWW actions, functions and meetings.

Keep informed about what is going on in your area and around the world. Talk with and work with the other labor groups. At times it seems frustrating, but with diplomacy, persistence and patience you can prevail. Organizers will soon see that these workers are a great asset to the union and usually become very active when given the incentives and the support.

Education is the key to emancipation. Direct action works not only on the job, but also in the union halls.